Bengaluru Tuesday, October 21, 2025 Pages 14 Vol 78 No 291 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Bangla lose 4 wkts in 4 balls, exit WC

Sri Lanka women stay in contention after Chamari inspires 7-run win Page 12

India qualify if...

- India beat NZ & Bangladesh
- India lose to NZ but Eng beat NZ
- India maintain superior NRR in case SL & Pak also finish on six points

Nation

Veteran Bollywood actor Asrani passes away at 84 P.8

State P.4

RSS march: Won't influence decision on permit, says Priyank

World

23 Indians rescued from ship off Yemen P.10

State

Finance dept to monitor fund use P.4

Trump: India will face big tariffs for buying Russian oil

Again claims Modi assured him of cut in Moscow imports

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India will pay "a massive tariff" for its exports to the US if it continues to buy oil from Russia, President Donald Trump warned after quoting Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again as assuring him that Delhi would cut down on Russian energy imports.

"I spoke to Prime Minister Modi of India, and he said he's not going to be doing the Russian oil thing (buying oil from Russia)," Trump told journalists aboard Air Force One on Sunday. His comment disregarded New Delhi's denial of his earlier claim about receiving an assurance from Modi on October 15 that India would not buy oil from Russia.

"But I don't believe he said that. If they want to say that, then they'll just continue to pay massive tariffs, and they don't want to do that," Trump said on Sunday, when journalists pointed out that New Delhi had in fact refuted his claim about assurance from Modi.

The US president had, on August 6, announced an additional 25% tariff – on top of 25% levied just about a week earlier – on all imports from India. The additional 25% tariff had been imposed to prod India to stop buying oil from Russia.

Trump and his aides, over the past few months, have been giving vent to the disappointment in Washington, DC, as India continued to buy oil from Russia, defying the sanctions the US and the rest of the West imposed on Russia to prod it to stop its "special military operations" in Ukraine.

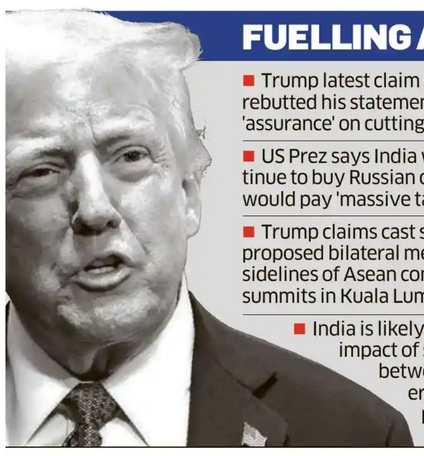
New Delhi, in its response to the claim by the US had stated that India's import policies had been entirely guided by the objective of safeguarding the interests of consumers in the country. Without directly clarifying if it would lower the import of oil from Russia, New Delhi had stated that its energy policies included broad-basing and diversifying sources in accordance with market conditions.

Trump, however, reiterated his claim on Sunday, thus casting a shadow of uncertainty over his proposed bilateral meeting with Modi on the sidelines of the ASEAN conclaves and the East Asia summits in Kuala Lumpur from October 26 to 28.

With his repeated claims about being assured by Modi on India cutting down on oil imports from Russia giving ammunition to the Opposition, India is likely to assess the impact of such a meeting on domestic politics.

Trump on Sunday also reiterated his claim about brokering the May 10 ceasefire between India and Pakistan – again disregarding multiple rebuttals from New Delhi.

EU FTA likely by year-end, P9



FUELLING A ROW

- Trump latest claim comes after India rebutted his statement about Modi's 'assurance' on cutting Russian imports
- US Prez says India would not continue to buy Russian oil, and if it did it would pay 'massive tariffs'
- Trump claims cast shadow over his proposed bilateral meet with Modi on sidelines of Asean conclaves, East Asia summits in Kuala Lumpur
- India is likely to assess the impact of such a meeting between the two leaders on domestic politics

Tariffs hit Tiruppur knitwear hub

Nearly two months after the US imposed 50% tariffs on Indian imports, the knitwear hub of Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu is struggling, as goods worth up to Rs 2,000 crore remain stuck. Cash flow has dried up and fresh orders from American buyers have stopped.

Details on Page 10

'Hosur-B'luru metro line technically not feasible'

BMRCL cites different traction systems as reason

DH SPECIAL

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Tamil Nadu's plan to build South India's first inter-state metro line connecting Bengaluru and Hosur appears to have hit a dead end, with the BMRCL saying it is "technically not feasible".

The development comes as the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has lined up an ambitious expansion plan, preparing feasibility reports for four extensions, examining three more extensions and one new line.

These studies were commissioned after the Centre asked the BMRCL to prepare a master plan to expand the Bengaluru metro network to 470 km, which will help expedite approvals.

The BMRCL has informed the Karnataka government that the 23-km Hosur-Bommasandra corridor will use different traction (electrical power) systems and cannot be integrated into Namma Metro

A feasibility study by Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) proposed linking Hosur with Bommasandra using a 25 kV AC overhead traction.

Extensions under Phase 4

- Bommasandra-Attibele line (11 km, 7-8 stations)
- Madavara to Tumakuru (59.6 km, 25 stations)
- Silk Institute to Harohalli on Kanakapura Road (24 km, 18 stations)
- Challaghatta to Bidadi (15 km, 13 stations)

Proposed new line

Kalena Agrahara to Kadugodi Tree Park (68 km) via Bannerghatta, Jigani, Attibele, Sarjapur, Dommasandra and Varthur Kodi

New Metro extensions planned

- Blue Line extension (Doddajala-Devanahalli, 10 km)
- Purple Line extension (KR Puram-Hoskote, 16.3 km)
- Silver Line extension (Kadabagere-Tavarekere village, 6 km)

The BMRCL conducted its own study to extend the metro from Bommasandra to Attibele, the last city suburb towards Tamil Nadu. This 11-km line, like the rest of the Namma Metro network, will use the 750 V DC third rail traction.

"Building a continuous line from Bommasandra to Hosur is not technically feasible. The Hosur line just cannot be integrated into our system," a senior BMRCL official with direct knowledge of the matter told *DH*. "We've shared our opinion with the state government, which will take the final decision."

Tamil Nadu has backed the Hosur-Bommasandra metro project as part of its push to develop the industrial town.

▸ Metro line, Page 5

PM: India on the verge of eliminating Maoists

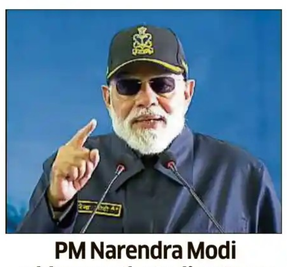
KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday announced that the country is on the "verge of complete freedom from Naxal-Maoist extremism thanks to the courage of the security forces".

Celebrating Diwali onboard Indian Navy's aircraft carrier INS Vikrant in keeping with his tradition of spending the festival with security forces, he said, "Before 2014, around 125 districts were affected by Maoist violence. Today, this number has reduced to just 11, with only three districts remaining significantly impacted. Over 100 districts have fully emerged from the shadow of Maoist terror and are breathing freely for the first time and celebrating Diwali."

Modi said that after generations of fear and violence, millions of people were stepping into the mainstream of development.

"In regions where Maoists once prevented roads, schools and hospitals from being built, where they blew up existing schools and shot doctors, and where they did not allow even mobile towers to be installed, today highways are being built," he said.



PM Narendra Modi addresses the Indian Navy personnel during Diwali aboard INS Vikrant. PTI

▸ Modi , Page 5

Huge crowd at CM's Puttur event; 13 fall sick

PUTTUR (DAKSHINA KANNADA DISTRICT): Thirteen people fell ill due to fatigue while waiting for more than six hours at the 'Ashoka Jana Mana 2025' programme in Puttur, attended by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday.

The event was organised by the Rai Estates Educational and Charitable Trust, chaired by Puttur MLA Ashok Kumar Rai. Around one lakh people had gathered to participate in the programme.

Eleven people fainted amid a rush for clothes and utensils and were admitted to the Puttur government hospital. They were later discharged. Several attendees reportedly felt suffocated and suffered dehydration due to heavy crowding.

Details on Page 4

Bihar polls: Cong, RJD set to face off in 5 seats

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The RJD and Congress are poised to contest against each other in five seats in the Bihar Assembly elections, as the parties on Monday released their lists of candidates with the Lalu Prasad-led party naming candidates for 143 of the 243 seats and the grand old party 61.

While Congress and RJD are locked in a contest in five seats where both could not reach a compromise, Congress and CPI are headed for a fight in 3-4 seats if no agreement is reached.

RJD and VIP are locked in a contest in Babuhashi and Chainpur but a positive note is that both parties have reached a compromise on Guara Boram where the latter would now contest.

At least in five seats, where the polls are in the second phase, leaders could still find a solution as the last date of withdrawal is Wednesday.

At the same time, RJD put to rest rumours that it would contest Kutumba, the sitting seat of Bihar Congress chief Rajesh Ram.

BIHAR VOTES

The Congress will fight nine seats less than last time but its demand for specific seats has led to a stalemate with both RJD and CPI.

Both RJD and Congress have fielded candidates in Narkatiaganj, Lalganj, Vaishali, Sultanganj and Kahalgaon. Congress and CPI have fielded candidates against each other in Bachhwara, Kargahar, Biharsharif and Raja Pakar.

▸ Bihar, Page 5

Quickly

Amazon's cloud services hit by global outage

A global outage hit Amazon's cloud services for several hours on Monday, the subsidiary of the US tech giant said, disrupting many websites and services including Amazon Prime, Perplexity, Fortnite, Alexa, Snapchat and Duolingo. Page 10

B'luru leads in funding of ecom entities

When it comes to top funded cities in the country's B2C ecommerce space, Bengaluru leads with $33.8 billion funding, driven primarily by Flipkart ($12.1 billion) and Ola ($3.8 billion), among others. In the last 10 years, the city has attracted total funding of $33.8 billion, followed by Delhi-NCR with $16.7 billion (led by OYO $3.5 billion and Snapdeal $1.8 billion), and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region with $3.9 billion. Details on Page 10

Deepavali fever grips B'luru markets

The spirit of Deepavali shone brightly across the city's oldest commercial hubs. Excited shoppers descended on Chickpet, Avenue Road and Kumbarpet and other places to purchase Deepavali essentials. Page 2

Ola founder booked after employee dies by suicide

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru police have booked Ola founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal and senior executive Subrath Kumar Dash for abetment to suicide after an employee allegedly died by suicide.

The deceased, K Aravind (38), a homologation engineer at Ola Electric's headquarters in Koramangala, reportedly left behind a 28-page handwritten death note alleging persistent harassment at the workplace.

Police registered the case based on a complaint filed by Ashwin Kannan, Aravind's brother.

The FIR names Aggarwal, Dash — Head of Vehicle Homologations and Regulation — and others under Section 108 of the BNS. Ashwin also alleged financial irregularities of Rs 17.46 lakh, claiming the company withheld his brother's salary and incentives until after his death.

Aravind allegedly consumed poison at his Chikkakallasandra home on September 28 and died at a hospital later.

The family discovered his death note afterward and accused senior Ola executives of harassment, claiming that the HR department failed to provide a clear explanation regarding money transfers to Aravind's bank account.

'Toxic work culture'

Ashwin said his brother often spoke about a "toxic work culture' at the company but "we never imagined it was serious enough for him to end his life". "No employee should face mental harassment or financial exploitation in any company. I demand fair justice for my brother's death," he said.

▸ Suicide, Page 5

HC directs police not to harass Ola founder, Page 5

Principal beats up boy with pipe over attendance

BENGALURU, DHNS: A Class 5 boy was allegedly beaten black and blue with a PVC pipe by his school principal and locked up in a room until 7.20 pm.

The incident was reported at a private school in Sunkadakatte on Magadi Road on October 14. Following a complaint from the boy's mother, the Kamakshipalya police registered a case against the school management, interrogated the principal and later released him on station bail.

A senior police officer said that the principal had "confessed" to assaulting the student because he was reportedly upset with the boy's irregular attendance.

Details on Page 2

CAP CATCH

SC Telangana ruling may hit K'taka quota matrix

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the Supreme Court insisting on a 50% quota cap while dealing with Telangana's decision to hike OBC reservation, concerns have emerged over the current matrix in Karnataka, which stands at 56%, six percentage points above the top court's ceiling.

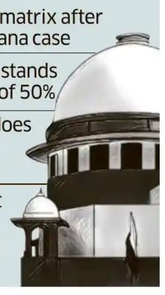
On October 16, the Supreme Court dismissed a plea by the Telangana government challenging a stay by the Telangana High Court on its decision to increase the OBC reservation quota in the state to 42%, which will result in breaching the 50% reservation cap.

The 50% reservation cap imposed by the Supreme Court in the Indra Sawhney judgment does not apply to states like Tamil Nadu (69% reservation) and Jharkhand (77% reservation), which got the changes added to the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. However, Karnataka's reservation matrix does not have this constitutional safeguard yet.

In Karnataka, the 50% ceiling was breached by the previous BJP government, which hiked reservation for Scheduled Castes from 15 to 17% and for Scheduled Tribes from 3 to 7%, taking the overall quota share to 56%.

This hike ran into a roadblock earlier this year, when the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (KAT) struck down the appointment of 384 gazetted probationers following a 2024 recruitment notification by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) based on the 56% quota matrix. The government has challenged this decision in the high court, where the next hearing is due on November 4.

BJP leader N Mahesh told *DH*: "If they have real concern, they must add this change to the 9th Schedule of the Constitution."



QUOTA CONCERNS

- Concerns over K'taka's matrix after recent SC ruling in Telangana case
- K'taka's current matrix stands at 56%, exceeding SC cap of 50%
- The 50% cap imposed does not apply to states like Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand
- These 2 states have got the changes added to the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

▸ Quota, Page 5

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3.45 lakh autos, and only 10,000 drivers have updated meters

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Out of Bengaluru's 3.45 lakh registered autorickshaws, only about 10,000 have had their meters recalibrated to reflect the revised fares, as of October 18.

The Transport Department had announced that drivers must recalibrate and verify their meters by October 31 to align with the new fare structure — Rs 36 for the first 2 km and Rs 18 for every additional kilometre.

As per the government directive, auto drivers must approach authorised manufacturers for calibration and then get the meters verified by the Legal Metrology Department.

The process began in mid-August, with four offices designated for the task — the Legal Metrology office on Ali Asker Road, Robertson Road in Fraser Town, the BBMP ground in Nandini Layout, and Shalini Ground in Jayanagar.

However, several auto drivers told *DH* that they were turned away from these centres and asked to return after October 25 to complete the verification process.

"A majority of our staff has been assigned to socio-economic survey duty, so we are able to carry out the verification process only at two of the four locations. Despite that, few drivers are turning up. We are seeing fewer than 5–10 drivers a day. We have reached out to multiple auto unions to address this and will be requesting the government to extend the deadline," a senior department official told *DH*.

Ride-aggregator platforms such as Uber, Ola, Rapido, and Namma Yatri had implemented the revised fares in August.

"Auto drivers do not even have the revised fare chart displayed. They continue to charge as they please. Whether meters are updated or not, the situation remains unchanged. This is just an eyewash," said Jeevana GR, a regular commuter, adding that traffic police no longer act against errant drivers.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy had earlier suggested organising a special drive to enforce the new fare structure, but the initiative is yet to begin.

Duped under digital arrest, 66-year-old loses Rs 1.62 crore

Kept under constant online surveillance for 14 days

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Cybercriminals posing as law enforcement officials conned a 66-year-old retiree from west Bengaluru of Rs 1.62 crore by keeping him under so-called "digital arrest" for 14 days.

The scam involves criminals intimidating victims into constant online surveillance under the false claim of being under digital arrest, a concept that does not exist in law.

In this case, Ramesh G (name changed) received a call at 2.30 pm on September 27, claiming that investigators had recovered his identification documents during a raid at a luxury hotel in Mumbai.

The caller, posing as a police officer, alleged that a case had been registered at the Mumbai cybercrime department and even shared a fabricated case number—15386/MUM/2025, the FIR noted.

Shortly after, Ramesh received a video call from a man identifying himself as Inspector Kuldip Singh of the same cybercrime station. Dressed in police uniform, Singh allegedly threatened Ramesh, saying cases of human trafficking and money laundering had been filed against him.

"I was told to share my personal and bank details. If I did not comply, I was threatened that my family and I would be arrested," Ramesh stated in the FIR.

Fearing legal trouble, Ramesh followed their instructions and revealed details of his savings and fixed deposits.

"They made me close all my FDs and transfer the money to my ICICI account. They claimed it would be verified to ensure it was not linked to illegal activities. They then obtained OTPs from me and, between September 29 and October 10, transferred Rs 1,62,77,160 to their accounts," he said. During this period, the scamsters kept Ramesh under constant video surveillance, warning him to stay online at all times.

A case was registered on October 15 after the criminals stopped contacting him and he approached the police. Investigations are ongoing.

The scam involves criminals intimidating victims into constant online surveillance under the false claim of being under digital arrest, a concept that does not exist in law.

Principal beats up boy with PVC pipe over attendance

Boy, in Class 5, was locked up in school room; police write to education dept

BENGALURU, DHNS

A Class 5 student was allegedly beaten with a PVC pipe and locked up in a room by his school principal until 7.20 pm, the boy's mother has complained.

The incident was reported at a private school in Sunkadakatte, Magadi Road, on the city's southwestern outskirts on October 14.

The Kamakshipalya police registered a case against the school management following a complaint from the boy's mother, interrogated the principal and released him on station bail.

The complaint filed by the boy's mother, Divya Shankar, names Rakesh Kumar, the school principal, and teacher Chandrika.

> **SHANKAR**
> The boy's father
>
> "When our son did not return home till evening, we called the principal, who arrogantly told us to check if our son had met with a road accident... My son is in deep shock following the incident. He suddenly starts screaming during the day and night. We are taking him to KC General Hospital for regular treatment as he is also complaining of chest pain.

The boy's father, Shankar, told *DH* his son returned home from school on October 13 as he was late for the morning prayer. When he went on time the next day, Chandrika sent him to the principal's room, where he was beaten with a PVC pipe.

"When our son did not return home till evening, we called the principal, who arrogantly told us to check if our son had met with a road accident. My wife, along with a neighbour, rushed to the school and found our son locked up in a room. When she informed the school owner Vijaykumar, he threatened her not to disclose the incident to anyone and asked us to collect a transfer certificate instead," the father said.

The boy is in deep shock following the incident, the father said. "He suddenly starts screaming during the day and night. We are taking him to KC General Hospital for regular treatment as he is also complaining of chest pain," Shankar said.

The family hails from Mandya and has been living in Sunkadakatte for the past few years. Divya works at a mall while Shankar is a farmer.

A senior police officer said the principal had "confessed" to assaulting the student. The principal was reportedly upset with the boy's irregular attendance. The boy didn't come to school on Saturday, giving the reason that he accidentally fell at home while playing, police said.

An investigating officer said police have written to the Block Education Officer (BEO), the Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI), and other officials, seeking action against the school and its management.

LIGHT & LAUGHTER

Sanjaynagar comes alive during Deepavali festivities on Monday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Police Commemoration Day: Siddaramaiah, G Parameshwara to attend; City Armed Reserve Force; National Military Memorial, Mysuru Road; from 8 am onwards.

Honouring achievers in Kannada: Hampa Nagarajaiah, SG Siddaramaiah, M Thimmayya; Organised by Federation of Kannada Associations of Karnataka Industries and Commerce; Nayana Auditorium, 5 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	90%
Sunset (Oct 21)	5:58 pm
Sunrise (Oct 22)	6:11 am
Moonrise	5:04 am
Moonset	5:10 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Nine suffer eye injuries on first day of Deepavali

BENGALURU, DHNS: At least nine eye injuries were reported in the city on the first day of the three-day Deepavali festival.

Five people with firecracker injuries were taken to Narayana Nethralaya in Rajajinagar and four others to Minto Ophthalmic Hospital.

An 11-year-old boy suffered a grievous injury to his eyes due to a 'Bijli' cracker. According to doctors, it was a self-inflicted accident that happened while the boy was bursting crackers.

At Minto Hospital, two boys, aged 12 and 14, who suffered eye injuries caused by firecracker explosions, were treated and discharged. A 48-year-old man sustained eye injuries from an "atom bomb" cracker blast and received treatment.

A three-year-old boy sustained eye injuries and is undergoing treatment at Narayana Nethralaya. The other four were treated and discharged, hospital sources said.

"Children injure their eyes while bursting firecrackers. Parents should be cautious. Children should wear simple protective glasses while lighting crackers. In case of any eye injury, they should visit an eye hospital immediately, without delay," said Dr Narayan Shetty, Director of Narayana Nethralaya.

24/7 helplines at Minto

Minto Hospital has made extra arrangements for the treatment of cracker injuries. It has also set up 24/7 helplines — 080-26707176/26706221 and 9481740137.

Man jumps to death at mall

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 34-year-old man jumped to his death from the third floor of GT World Mall on Magadi Road on Monday.

The deceased, identified as Sagar from Papaiah Garden, entered the mall soon after it opened in the morning and jumped from the third floor.

Sagar was undergoing treatment for mental health-related issues, an officer, quoting the family, said.

Police have registered an Unnatural Death Report.

Dowry harassment: Woman lecturer ends life

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 28-year-old lecturer at a private college died by suicide after jumping into the Visvesvaraya Dam near Ghati in Doddaballapur on Bengaluru's northern outskirts.

The deceased, identified as Pushpavathi from Doddaballapur, was married to Venu, an employee at a private firm. Police said she went missing on Sunday, and her body was recovered from the dam on Monday.

Before ending her life, Pushpavathi reportedly recorded a video and uploaded it on social media, alleging that her husband, mother-in-law, father-in-law, and other relatives had harassed her for dowry and property.

In the video, she claimed that when she expressed her wish to have a child, Venu refused and demanded that she first buy a site for him. When she complained to her in-laws, they allegedly told her, "If you want a child, sleep with your brother-in-law."

She also alleged that her in-laws had tried to poison her.

Based on the video and her allegations, the Doddaballapur Women's Police have detained Venu and his father, Govindappa, for questioning. Police said Venu's brother, Narayanaswamy, is absconding.

HELPLINE
If you are experiencing thoughts of self-harm and suicide, please reach out to the 14416 TeleMANAS helpline for support.

Spl train from B'luru to Vizag

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) is running a special train from Bengaluru to Visakhapatnam to handle the Deepavali rush on Wednesday.

The one-way Train No 08544 will depart from Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT), Bengaluru, at 3.50 pm on Wednesday.

The train will reach Visakhapatnam at 1.30 pm on Thursday, according to the press release.

FESTIVE VIBE

Deepavali spirit rekindles charm of city's old markets

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

Commercial Street comes alive with lights and last-minute Deepavali shoppers. AFP

Excited shoppers have formed long queues in Chickpet, Avenue Road and Kumbarpet as the city's oldest commercial hubs buzz with Deepavali frenzy.

A business tradition draws crowds to Kumbarpet, where a massive queue had formed outside a stationery store. "The queue is for the new accounts books," explained a shopkeeper. "As per tradition, many shopkeepers start new ledgers, or 'khata books', during Deepavali for good fortune."

Hundreds are also thronging to buy clothes, decorative lamps, and traditional deepas. Shoppers expressed eagerness to find the latest trends. "I am looking for sustainable clay deepas and silk blend kurtas," said Kavita, a shopper near Avenue Road. "The variety here is unmatched."

The narrow Avenue Road, famous for its stationery and gold shops, is particularly congested. "Business is fantastic, perhaps better than last year," said Raghunath, a brassware seller in Kumbarpet. "People are opting for traditional copper and brass urlis and deepas. They've realised the quality and price they get here can't be matched online."

KR Market is overflowing with flowers, dry fruits, agarbattis, banana stems and mango leaves as shoppers prepare for the traditional 'abhyanga snana' and 'naraka chaturdashi' festivities marking the three-day Deepavali festival.

Shopkeepers, while swamped, are enjoying the high footfall. "Nothing can replace the experience of touching the cloth or the smell of fresh flowers and the whole market experience during festivities," said Mohammed Khan, a Chickpet cloth merchant.

Garbage dump shadows Avenue Road

A garbage mound on Avenue Road is frustrating shopkeepers during peak season.

"This is our peak season of sales. This (garbage) has severely affected business," lamented a textile store owner.

Garbage was dumped just Sunday morning, shopkeepers said. A corporation auto was seen dumping fresh waste onto the already overflowing pile. "I have informed the corporation authorities and asked them to clear it immediately, but till now, no action has been taken," the shopkeeper stated.

Piled-up garbage clogs a road in Chickpet. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Local traders are urging immediate intervention to rescue their business before the festival concludes.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
GSU/ELECTRICAL WORK (G)

CPM, Gati Shakti, Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of the president of India Invites E-tender from the reputed firms/Contractor for the following work. **E-Tender Notice No: 07-2025-GSU-Elect-G, Date: 17.10.2025. Name of work**: Electrical General service work for the **(A)** Provision of Parcel and Goods Shed related facilities at (i) Solapur: Provision of CGS Office & parcel office (ii) Kalburgi: Provision of parcel office (iii) Kurduwadi: Provision of Hamal room and CGS office (iv) Wadi: Provision of Parcel office & store room (v) Pandharpur: Provision of Hamal Room. **(B)** Wadi - Resurfacing of PF 1/2 and 3/4 of Wadi station and other improvement works. **Approximate cost of work**: Rs.1,70,95,922.48. **Earnest Money**: Rs. 2,35,500/-. **Completion period of the work**: 12 (Twelve)Months. **Maintenance Period**: 12 (Twelve) months from the date of commissioning / taking over of the installation. **Last Date and time for submission for tender on www.ireps.gov.in website**: 10.11.2025 up to 15:00 hrs. **Date and time of opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in**: 10.11.2025 after 15:30 hrs. **Website particulars**: **www.ireps.gov.in Note**: The Prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any change/corrigendum issued for this tender website : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Project Manager (GSU), Central Railway, Solapur.
DE/Sur-63

असुरक्षित तथा अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन के पास कार्य करना दंडनीय अपराध है

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: B/TRD.2025-26/20 Dated 16.10.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
[i] OHE modifications in connection with proposed capacity enhancement of SGT Wagon depot to meet demand of freight loading of 3000 MT target by 2027. **[ii]** OHE modifications in connection with proposed construction of new IOH Shed for NMG Maintenance at SGT yard. **[iii]** Construction of new pitline in AC Loco Trip Shed at SGT-TRD works.	Rs. 5,26,82,274.76/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 05.11.2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution/Bengaluru
PUB/570/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

IN THE COURT OF IX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE CITY (CCH-5)
G & WC No. 02/2025

BETWEEN: 1. Smt. Yamuna Nagesh, W/o Late Nagesh.K, Aged about 36 years, **2. Vishnu Priya .N**, D/o Late Nagesh .K, Aged about 17 years, **3. Master. Sharath.N**, S/o Late Nagesh .K, Aged about 11 years, **4. Master. Guhanyukth.N**, S/o Late Nagesh .K, Aged about 4 years, No. 2 to 4 are minors, Reptd by their mother Sl.No.1 As natural guardian, All are R/at No.15, Vishnu Nilaya, Near SLV School, Amruthahalli, Bangalore-560092 ...**PETITIONERS**

AND: NIL ...RESPONDENT

NOTICE IN PAPER PUBLICATION FOR INTERESTED ON BEHALF OF MINORS/PETITIONER NO.2 TO 4.

Whereas The petitioner No.1 has filed the petition to appoint the petitioner No.1 as natural guardian to the petitioner No.2 to 4 and permission to sell the "A" schedule property for the benefit of the minors. If any person having any interest in the minors property and protect the interest of the minor, can file the application and objections to appear before this Hon'ble court either in person or through the pleader on **05-12-2025** at 11:00 AM to defend the above case, failing which the matter will be decided ex-parte.

"A" SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of residential converted vacant Site No.15, in Sy.No.76/4 (Layout formed in residential converted Sy.No.76/4 and 64/1) by vide conversion order No. BDS.ALN.SR.(NA).175/2002-03, dated: 02-01-2003 issued by deputy commissioner and having BBMP Katha No.624/1949/64/1/76/4 and 62/1/15, measuring East to West: 45 feet, and North to South - eastern side: 25.6 feet and North to South-Western side: 29 feet, in total measuring 1226.25 Sqfts, situated at Amruthahalli village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, called in the residential Layout "Sai Villas", now at BBMP Ward No.7 and bounded on: East by: : Road, West by: : Site No.23 & 24, North by : Site No.16, South by : private property

"B" SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of southern portion of "A" schedule property bearing old Katha No.157, house list No.151, present BBMP Katha No.175/157, measuring East to West: 51. 2 feet and North to South: 29.75 feet, in all total 1532.125 Sqft situated of Amruthahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk and now at ward No.7 BBMP bounded on: East by : Government Road, West by: Path way /Road, North by : Share allotted to Subramani.K i.e., schedule "C" property, South by : A.P.Venkatesh property

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on 15-10-2025.

By order of the court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court at Bangalore.

SRI. CHOKKAREDDY, Advocate No.207, Amar Towers, 1st cross, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Application Notification No. 210/Halts/GJT Halt/2025/SBC Division Dated : 13.10.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for appointment of Halt Agent from educated unemployed persons residing in and around the **Janaghatta (GJT) Train Halt Station** for issuing Unreserved Tickets on Commission basis for a period of five (05) years or till up-gradation of the station whichever is earlier.

Sl.No.	Station	Section	To Start functioning from
1	Janaghatta (GJT)	Yelahanka	Date will be notified by the administration

Date and Time of submission of application: From 10:00 Hrs. to 16:00 Hrs. of 10.11.2025
Date and Time of opening of application: 16:05 Hrs. of 10.11.2025

For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Bengaluru
PUB/562/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CRIMINAL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
TRANSFER PETITION (CRIMINAL) No(s) 836-841 OF 2023
WITH I.A. No. 196520/2023- APPLICATION FOR STAY APPLICATION AND I.A. No. 196521/2023-APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. AND I.A. No. 215617/2023- APPLICATION FOR COMPLIANCE OF COURTS ORDER

QUALITY HEALTH CARE EDUCATION SOCIETYS
QUALITY HEALTH CARE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND ANOTHER ... **Petitioner(s)**
VERSUS
SIBY CHAN AND ORS ... **Petitioner(s)**

To,
1 MATHEW C.J, DIRECTOR, AGED 47 YEARS
QUALITY COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES
AND SCIENCE, NO 415, P.P LAYOUT, UTTARAHALLI-KENGERI MAIN ROAD, SUBRAMANYAPURA P.O KARNATAK, (REF.: CMP NOS.322 AND 323/2021) — PID: 247077/2025 FOR R[4] IN IN T.P.(CRL.) NO. 840/2023T.P(CRL.) NO.836-841/2023 (SEC II-D)

2 SINI MANI, DIRECTOR, AGED 40 YEARS,
QUALITY COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES AND SCIENCE, NO. 4/5, P.P LAYOUT, UTTARAHALLI-KENGERI MAIN ROAD, SUBRAMANYAPURA P.O BANGALORE-560061 KARNATAKA, (REF.: CMP NOS.322 AND 323/2021) — PID: 247078/2025 FOR R[5] IN IN T.P.(CRL.) NO. 840/2023T.P(CRL.) NO.836-841/2023 (SEC II-D)

WHEREAS the Petition under Section 406 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, above-mentioned, along with an application for STAY APPLICATION, EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., COMPLIANCE OF COURTS ORDER, SUBSTITUTED SERVICE seeking transfer of CMP No. 322 and 323 of 2021 titled as "JOYS GEORGE Vs. QUALITY HEALTH CARE EDUCATION SOCIETYS QUALITY HEALTH CARE SCHOOL OF NURSING", pending before the Judicial Magistrate First Class , Kuttuparamba, Kerala under the jurisdiction of High Court of Kerala to the Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru, KARNATAKA, under the jurisdiction of the High Court of KARNATAKA [Copy enclosed] filed by Mr. ANKOLEKAR GURUDATTA, Advocate for the petitioner was listed for preliminary hearing before this Court on 16th October, 2023, and the Court passed the following order:

"Diary No. 18973 and 23397 of 2023

Delay of 75 days and 58 days respectively in refiling is condoned. Issue notice, returnable in four weeks.

"AND WHEREAS, the matter above-mentioned was listed before the Hon'ble Judge in Chamber on 13th October, 2025, when the following order was passed:
"TRANSFER PETITION(S) (CRIMINAL) NO(S).836-841/2023: Application (IA No.112373 of 2025) seeking substituted service is allowed.

"NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition alongwith application for stay will be taken up by this Court in due course and you may enter appearance before this Court either-in-person or through an Advocate-on-Record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within thirty days from the date of service of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why transfer petition and stay as prayed for may not be granted to the petitioner above named.

You may file affidavit in opposition to the petition, as provided under Order XXXIX, S.C.R. 2013, not later than one week before the date appointed for hearing of the petition.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance, as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated this the 15th October, 2025 **Sd/- ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ENGINEERING WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms/contractor for the following works. **Sr. No.:1. Tender Notice No.: 37-2025-SrDENC, Date: 20.10.2025. Name of Work**: Construction of quarter in lieu of old quarters at KWV (Type-III 04), MLM (type-II 04 units) under ADEN/KWV/BG Sub Division. **Approximate Cost of the work**: Rs.1,73,26,161.59. **Earnest Money**: Rs. 236600/-. **Completion period of the work**: 06 Months. **Maintenance Period**: 24 Months. **Sr. No.:2. Tender Notice No.: 38-2025-SrDENC, Date: 20.10.2025. Name of Work**: Construction of New quarters at LUR (Type-III 04), OSA (type-11 04 units) & DKY(Type-II 02 units) under ADEN/LUR. **Approximate Cost of the work**: Rs. 2,14,14,233.31. **Earnest Money**: Rs. 257100/-. **Completion period of the work**: 06 Months. **Maintenance Period**: 24 Months. **Sr. No.:3. Tender Notice No.: 39-2025-SrDENC, Date: 20.10.2025. Name of Work**: Miscellaneous P.way Work Under SSE/P.way/MRJ under ADEN/PVR Sub-division for a period of two years. **Approximate Cost of the work**: Rs. 2,35,08,474.07. **Earnest Money**: Rs. 2,67,600/-. **Completion period of the work**: 24 Months. **Maintenance Period**: NA. **Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website**: 10.11.2025 upto 15:00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in**: 10.11.2025 at 15:30 hrs. **The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur
DE/Sur-64

असुरक्षित तथा अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन के पास कार्य करना दंडनीय अपराध है

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: (1)**Sri.M.M.ANAND RAM** S/o late M.L.Manjanath Shetty, (2) **Sri.MYSORE MANJANATHASETTY PANDURANGA** S/o late M.L.Manjanath Shetty, (3)**Sri.M.M.PARTHA SARATHI** S/o late M.L.Manjanath Shetty; (4)**Sri.MYSORE SAMPATHKUMAR SHIVAKUMAR** S/o late M.M.Sampath Kumar and his two sisters **Smt.USHA RANI CHILKEPALLY** & **Smt.M.S.ASHA**; and (5)**Sri.MAHESH LACHIA MANJANATHA** S/o late M.Lachia Setty and his sister **Smt.K.S.ANURADHA**.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the vacant immovable property bearing Municipal No.185 (PID No.61-35-185, New EPID No.2507381096) and Municipal No.59 (PID No.61-11-59, New EPID No.2507391989), together measuring on the East 100ft; on the West 90ft; on the North 115ft; and on the South 100ft, in all measuring 10,212.5 Sq.ft, situated at Rasthriya Vidyalaya Road and Mavalli Main Road, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Mavalli Main Road/Susheela Road;
West by : Rasthriya Vidyalaya Road;
North by : Property bearing No.182; and
South by : Property of Raghavendra.

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**, Advocate, **GOUTAM ASSOCIATES**, No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004.

Ashoka predicts fall of govt soon

HASSAN, DHNS: The dissent within the ruling Congress will continue and the Siddaramaiah government would fall by November or December, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka predicted on Monday.

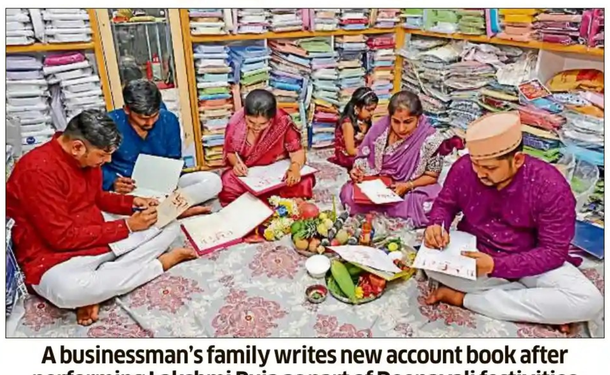
Speaking to reporters here, he said, "There is internal bickering, dissent and disagreement among the leaders within the Congress. This is a government that has gone astray."

"The Congress government has done nothing in Karnataka over the last two-and-a-half years. Now, it has raked up the RSS issue to cover up its failures," Ashoka criticised.

"Several industrialists have criticised the state government for the poor roads in Bengaluru. If Bengaluru has to become 'Brand Bengaluru', it is these taxpayers who are also responsible. Is it wrong for the taxpayers to ask for proper roads? They had also questioned us when the BJP government was in power, Ashoka said.

GST slab revision snuffs out Deepavali shopping flames

City traders report dip in sales of clothes priced over Rs 3,000



A businessman's family writes new account book after performing Lakshmi Puja as part of Deepavali festivities in Chickpet, Bengaluru, on Monday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

SHRADDHA A K
BENGALURU, DHNS

Deepavali is traditionally a time when shoppers indulge in ethnic wear, including lehengas, kurtas and salwar suits.

However, following the revised GST slabs — which set a 5% tax on garments priced below Rs 3,000 and 18% tax on those above this threshold — many garment traders and wholesalers have noticed a decline in the sales of higher-priced clothing this festive season.

Sajjan Raj Mehta, a trade activist and garment shop owner in Chickpet, highlighted the impact of these tax changes on ethnic wear sales in the city.

"Due to the high tax margin on these clothes, our sales have taken a significant hit. Our only sales this season came from ethnic wear, mainly three-piece suits (kurta, pajama, and dupatta) under Rs 3,000."

He reported that sales of more elaborate ethnic wear have dropped by 20% to 30%. He suggested that the government consider raising the 5% tax slab to a higher price range rather than capping the 18% slab at Rs 3,000 to better support garment businesses.

While sales of puja-related items and Deepavali gifts have increased, shoppers have been deterred from buying larger quantities of gold, silver, crackers, lights and brass idols compared to previous years, opting instead for smaller amounts.

Asadh J, owner of Emporio Clothing Store on Commercial Street, echoed these concerns, noting that the GST slabs have adversely affected sales. He explained, "With inflation in the market leading to increased tariffs, people's purchasing power has decreased."

Although his store saw healthy sales of garments below Rs 3,000, he emphasised that this "made no difference" as profits could only be made from higher-priced garments.

Designer Shloka Sudakar reported a 5% drop in sales, mentioning that many clients don't fully understand the new GST slabs and question her pricing on bridal pieces.

Because bridal orders are placed in advance, she requires a deposit, charging 18% on the remaining cost regardless of when the order was made.

Sudakar explained, "Given our high prices, the 18% adds up substantially, impacting our sales." Her store does not carry items below Rs 3,000, leading to noticeable sales declines.

In contrast, garment stores selling items priced below Rs 3,000 have experienced a 20% increase in sales this festive season, with many even selling out and breaking even on investments by offering garments priced under Rs 1,000.

Lokayukta can inquire against staff of aided institutions, says High Court

'Salary and service conditions regulated by govt'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Lokayukta can conduct an inquiry against an employee of a private educational institution if it is aided by the government and if the government refers the matter under Rule 14A of the Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules (CCA Rules), 1957, according to the high court.

A division bench comprising Justices D K Singh and Venkatesh Naik T passed the order while dismissing the petition filed by a retired librarian at a grant-in-aid institution.

B Lakshminaraya is a librarian-cum-clerk at Sri Balanjaneya High School, Byrashettihalli, Nelamangala taluk, Bengaluru Rural district.

In 2013, a complaint filed against him in the Lokayukta stated that in January 2004 and 2005, he and four others jointly purchased lands in Vajarahalli village and in Nelamangala town without obtaining the necessary permission from the management.

It was further alleged that Lakshminarayana entered into an agreement of sale for the land in Vajarahalli for Rs 3.83 crore and received Rs 2.83 crore as his share. According to the complaint, Lakshminarayana failed to declare these transactions in his assets and liabilities statements submitted to his higher authorities for any tax assessment years.

The Lokayukta submitted a report to the state government in September 2016 and in January 2017, the state entrusted the inquiry to the Lokayukta under the CCA rules.

The petitioner contended that since he was an employee of a private aided educational institution, the provisions of the CCA rules are not applicable and he is not a public servant.

He further submitted that it is for the management of the institution to take disciplinary action against its employees.

The division bench observed that the high court on many occasions had held that the employees of educational institutions that receive government aid are considered akin to government employees for certain purposes.

The rationale is that their salaries and service conditions are often regulated and funded by the state government, even if the institution is privately managed, the bench said, ruling that both the Lokayukta report under Section 12(3) of the Lokayukta Act and the order passed by the state government under Rule 14A of CCA Rules are tenable in law.

"The Lokayukta, while submitting its report under Section 12(3) of the Act, has discussed the complaint against the petitioner in detail and come to prima facie conclusion that the petitioner has not submitted his assets and liabilities statements for the particular income tax assessment years. Thus, it came to the conclusion that the petitioner purchased certain lands and sites without permission of the higher authority, which is mandatory under law. Thus, there is no error in continuing with the inquiry proceedings against the petitioner," the bench said, adding that the petitioner is permitted to raise other contentions before the inquiry officer.

Bribery: HC upholds compulsory retirement of BWSSB staffer

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court has upheld the punishment of compulsory retirement imposed upon a BWSSB meter reader in a bribery case.

A division bench comprising Justices D K Singh and Venkatesh Naik T noted that the acquittal of the accused/petitioner on technical grounds would not come in the way of finalising the domestic inquiry and inflicting punishment.

S D Babu, helper in BWSSB, was caught by the Lokayukta police on September 25, 2008, while accepting Rs 7,000 as a bribe for regularising the water connection of a house.

On January 11, 2018, the special court for Lokayukta acquitted him on the grounds that the shadow witness accompanying the complainant turned hostile and the demand for a bribe could not be proved. However, the disciplinary proceedings held him guilty of accepting the bribe and he was compulsorily retired from service.

Challenging this order, Babu contended that once acquitted in the criminal trial under the Prevention of Corruption Act, compulsory retirement punishment could not have been awarded in the domestic inquiry. The Division Bench noted that the charge of misconduct has been proved in the domestic inquiry

"We, therefore, do not find that there is any illegality in inflicting punishment of compulsory retirement on the petitioner as a result of domestic inquiry" the bench said, while dismissing the petition.

Money laundering case: HC sets aside tribunal order against Devas Multimedia Limited

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a relief to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the High Court has set aside the order passed by an Appellate Tribunal (under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act), Delhi, on the provisional attachment order against Devas Multimedia Pvt Ltd.

A division bench comprising Justices D K Singh and Venkatesh Naik held that the tribunal does not have the power to remand the matter back to the adjudicating authority under PML Act for fresh adjudication.

The ED had initiated proceedings under the Act against Devas over alleged fraud resulting in a substantial financial loss to the Centre relating to the 2005 lease of space capacity agreement on ISRO/Antrix S-Band Space Craft.

On Oct 11, 2017, the adjudicating authority under PML Act confirmed the provisional attachment order of Feb 27, 2017, of the properties (in the form of mutual funds & bank accounts) amounting to Rs 21,38,66,041 of Devas.

When this order was challenged, on Sept 11, 2019, the tribunal set aside the attachment order on the grounds that the adjudicating authority had not assigned any reasons, much less any legally cogent reasons, while confirming provisional order of attachment.

The tribunal said the adjudicating authority had not applied its independent mind to facts and circumstances of the case. Further, the tribunal remanded the matter back to the adjudicating authority for fresh adjudication after considering the reply filed by the respondent to notice under Sec 8(1) of PML Act.

Challenging this order, ED argued that under sub-section (4) of sec 26 of PML Act, the tribunal has powers as appellate authority to pass order of confirming, modifying or setting aside the order appealed against. But, there is no such power of remand vested in the tribunal, it said.

It said if the tribunal remands the matter to the adjudicating authority, the attachment order would go and it would be difficult to trace the money.

"Once the money attachment order is removed and money is taken away, the whole purpose of attachment would get frustrated," the ED counsel said.

On the other hand, Devas argued that the power of remand is concomitant to the power of setting aside the order of the lower authority vested in the tribunal.

The bench said in the absence of the specific power of remand, the tribunal could not have remanded the matter back to adjudicating authority.

"There can be no manner of doubt that the tribunal is the creation of the statute and it exercises limited power as conferred on it, by the statute. There is no inherent power in a tribunal, inasmuch as it is not a regular court. If statute does not confer a power of remand, and there is no inherent power vested in the tribunal, it cannot remand the matter back to adjudicating authority unless it is specifically provided in statute itself," it said.

It said, "We set aside the impugned order passed by the tribunal and remand the matter back to the tribunal to render its decision on merit after hearing the parties".

Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment
and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
Let the light of
Deepavali
bring joy and prosperity
Wishing everyone a Happy
Deepavali Festival
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
This Deepavali, let's light ECO-friendly clay lamps.
Deepavali is the festival of lights, let us avoid Air & Noise Pollution.
Directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court
Rule 31.10.2010 and 23.10.2018
Do not use prohibited fireworks which cause noise and air pollution.
Fireworks above 110 decibels are prohibited.
Bursting of Crackers is allowed only for 2 days from 6.00 AM to 7.00 AM and 8.00 PM to 10.00 PM.
Only apporved Green Crackers are allowed
Use green fireworks approved by PESO & NEERI Institute.
Chemical and Hazardus Fireworks are Banned
Save Environment
Avoid Crackers
May the lamp shine bright this Deepavali
Let's keep the crackers far away
Shri Eshwar B. Khandre
Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment
Graced the World Environment Day Celebrations
Shri P. M. Narendraswamy
Hon'ble Chairman
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
Graced the World Environment Day Celebrations
KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
#49, "Parisara Bhavan" 1st to 5th Floor, Chruch Street, Bengaluru - 560 001
Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax : 080-25586321
e-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

ನಂದಿನಿ
Nandini
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
KMF
Extends warm greetings to all.
Farmers, Milk Producers,
Esteemed Nandini Consumers and
Patrons of the Nandini Family
on the occasion of
Deepavali
Festival of Lights
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Sri. K. Venkatesh, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture.
Sri. T. H. M. Kumar, I.A.S. Administrator, K.M.F and Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Karnataka
Sri. B. Shivaswamy, K.A.S. Managing Director, K.M.F
were all present during the launch of Nandini Products.
OUR Nandini OUR PRIDE
Nandini - The Taste of Tradition
KMF Karnataka Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited

Ballari-B'luru daily flight from November 1

BALLARI, DHNS: Star Air will operate a daily Bengaluru-Ballari (Vidyanagar) flight from November 1.

The private operator has announced this in its official website and social media handle.

The flight will leave Bengaluru at 7.50 in the morning while in the return direction, it will leave Ballari at 9.10 AM, according to the post.

Fin dept to directly monitor accounts of varsities, corpns

Centralised module developed in Khajane-2 to record data

BENGALURU, DHNS

Considering the recent instances of misuse of government grants, the Finance department has decided to directly monitor the accounts of public universities, boards and corporations and other autonomous bodies.

This is mainly to observe the discrepancies or behind-the-scenes "manipulations" while utilizing the funds released by the government. The government directed the departments, urban local bodies, Panchayat Raj institutions, corporations, boards, societies, universities, and other autonomous institutions to share the details of bank accounts they use for operations. For this, a centralised module has been developed in Khajane-2.

As per the institutions, within the next one month, the drawing officers of the respective departments must mandatorily record the details of the bank accounts they hold in the Account Verification Module of Khajane-2 and update.

Why is this important?

It can be recalled that, a few years ago, thousands of crores belonging to the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department were transferred from the main account to another account and indirectly benefited certain individuals.

Later, the government's money was transferred back to the main account and the case was closed. Similar instances were reported from other departments and corporations too.

In another similar case, before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, hundreds of crores from the Valmiki Corporation were transferred to another account opened by the corporation and from there to various private accounts. This diversion of funds came to light during the investigation.

"Following such repeated instances and as it is difficult to monitor each and every account we have developed a centralised module," said an official from the Finance department.

How does it work?

After entering bank and branch details, customer number, account number, account type, and the year the account was opened, additional information must be entered in the given module: account head, agency name, account purpose, whether the account receives government grants, whether the account undergoes annual audit and the order number through which the account was opened.

"This will help understand the account's history and importance, and whether it is subject to audit. Moreover, when multiple accounts exist, their past transactions will also come to the attention of the Finance department as soon as they are recorded," explained an official of the department.

Since 2017, if any department, corporation, or board wants to open a new bank account, it must obtain approval from the competent authority and the Finance Department. The account's purpose, type, authorised signatories, and operational guidelines must be in place. This order has completed seven years. The module will also reveal how many departments and corporations are complying with it.

13 fall sick due to 'overcrowding' at event attended by CM

PUTTUR (DAKSHINA KANNADA DISTRICT), DHNS

Thirteen people fell ill due to fatigue while waiting for more than six hours at the 'Ashoka Jana Mana 2025' programme in Puttur, attended by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday.

According to a release from DK police, people fell sick due to dehydration. A total of 13 people were treated at hospital following the incident. All patients have since fully recovered, and no serious complications were reported, the release added.

The event was organised by the Rai Estates Educational and Charitable Trust, chaired by Puttur MLA Ashok Kumar Rai. Around one lakh people had gathered to participate in the programme, which marks the 13th year of distributing Deepavali gifts to the public. This year, the organisers planned to distribute gifts to one lakh beneficiaries.

Eleven people fainted amid a rush for clothes and utensils and were admitted to the Puttur government hospital. They were later discharged. Several attendees reportedly suffered from suffocation and dehydration due to heavy crowding during the distribution of gifts and food.

Although a large pandal was erected on the Junior College grounds, rain on Sunday night left the venue muddy and slippery. Police reportedly did not allow attendees to carry water bottles inside the venue. "As a precaution, we didn't allow bottles to prevent anyone from throwing them toward the chief minister," said an officer on duty.

The police noted that delays in distributing food and gifts, combined with hypoglycemia and dehydration, contributed to the incidents. Three women were administered IV fluids, while seven others received first aid and were discharged.

The chief minister arrived around 1 pm. Following Siddaramaiah's address at 3 pm, crowds surged towards the food and gift distribution area, resulting in overcrowding and a push-pull situation, which caused some people to faint due to exhaustion.

Those who availed treatment at the government hospital were identified as Vasanthi Balnadu (53), Shaba Madavu (20), Amina Patrakodi (56), Yogita (20), Netravathi Irde (37), Leelavathi Kadaba (50), Kusuma (62), Ratnavathi Perigeri (67), Snehaprabha (41), Jaseela (30), and Afeela Patrakodi (30). Others reportedly sought treatment at private hospitals. Authorities recorded video statements from the treated individuals regarding the incident, added the release from the police.

RSS march: 'Won't influence decision on permission'

Govt order also applies to namaz in public places: Priyank

BENGALURU, DHNS

Panchayat Raj and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday said he will not exert any "influence" on the authorities in his constituency Chittapur who will have to decide on allowing the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) route march on November 2.

Citing the possibility of law and order deterioration, the Chittapur taluk administration on Sunday had refused permission to the RSS for its route march.

However, the High Court on Sunday permitted RSS member Ashok Patil to file a fresh application seeking permission to hold a route march at Chittapur on November 2. The court wants officials to submit a report on October 24.

"The court has said that they [RSS] should apply again, and based on the local situation, permission will be given or rejected," Priyank said. "I'm not influencing anything," he insisted. Priyank pointed that the RSS was denied clearance for route marches in 3-4 districts after the government issued an order on Saturday making prior permission mandatory for any activities by private organisations involving public places.

"Is it wrong for the government to expect organisations to apply for permission?" asked Priyank. "There were such orders earlier. We've not issued a comprehensive directive to implement those orders."

Priyank rejected criticism that he was going after government employees for having RSS links. "There's no witch hunt against officials," he said. "We don't suspend employees based on hearsay. We'll need documents. We can't act out of vendetta."

The minister, who has sought a ban on RSS' activities in public places, pointed out that the union government last year allowed its employees to participate in the Hindu nationalist organisation's activities. "The Centre's service rules are different. We don't have such a provision here," he said.

Reacting to expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal's petition to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking curbs on Muslims offering Namaz in public places, Priyank said: "Even they need permission (for Namaz). This will apply to them, too. The government doesn't mention the name of any organisation or religion."

Priyank maintained that neither the BJP nor the RSS had replied to his questions. "For example, I asked for 10 achievements of the RSS. Instead, they're listing out 10 bad things about me. I'll face an election and people will hold me accountable. How will the RSS be held accountable?" he sought to know.

RAIN TRAVAILS

Heavy rains and lake breach leave an arecanut plantation flooded at Honnagodanahalli in Arkalgud taluk of Hassan district on Monday. While north interior Karnataka, barring Kalaburagi and Haveri districts, largely remained dry with clear skies, many parts ofMalnad and southern districts received moderate to heavy rains. Chandragiri in Tumakuru district recorded a staggering 140 mm of rain in the last 24 hours (ending 8.30 am on Monday). DH PHOTO

Karnataka funds for Bihar polls? DKS miffed at BJP's charge

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday asked the Opposition BJP to provide evidence for its allegation that officials in the state were tasked with collecting funds for the Congress' election campaign in Bihar.

BJP MPs B Y Raghavendra and Jagadish Shettar had claimed that corruption had increased in the state as the Congress was involved in raising funds for the Bihar polls.

"If they have any evidence, let them release it. Raghavendra shouldn't become notorious for lying. There are some leaders who hit and run. Raghavendra shouldn't become one of them," Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Congress president, said.

Bihar polls will be held over two phases on November 6 and 11. Votes will be counted on November 14.

CM dismisses BJP's allegations

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters in Puttur, Dakshina Kannada district, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah dismissed BJP's allegation that Congress was using Karnataka as ATM for Bihar polls.

"They are blaming us for what they themselves did," he said.

HC directs Bengaluru police not harass Ola founder in employee suicide case

BENGALURU, DHNS: In an interim order, the High Court of Karnataka has directed the Bengaluru police not to harass Ola Chairman and Managing Director Bhavish Agarwal, and Subrath Kumar Dash, Head, Vehicle Homologations and Regulations, under the pretext of investigating an employee's suicide.

Justice Mohammad Nawaz passed the order on a petition filed by the petitioners challenging the FIR registered by the Subramanyapura police in connection with the death by suicide of an Ola engineer.

"The police, who are investigating into the case registered in Cr.No.372/2025 of Subramanyapura Police Station, Bengaluru City, shall not harass the petitioners in the guise of investigation," the court said.

The Subramanyapura police had registered the FIR in connection with the death of K Aravind, an employee with Ola Electric. The FIR was registered for offences under section 108 of BNS.

The petitioners stated that the police issued a notice on October 7 to both Agarwal and Dash in connection with the case.

The court ordered notice to the respondent police and directed the case to be posted after serving notice on the complainant in the case, Ashwin Kannan, the brother of the deceased.

London Book of World Records fights allegations after K'taka 'world record' row

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Following the recent "world record" fiasco of the Karnataka government, the London Book of World Records has come forward to clear the air over the allegations against its organisation.

On October 17, social media was abuzz with citizens questioning the legitimacy of the world record certificates issued by the organisation to the Karnataka government — one for the highest number of women availing themselves of free travel under the Shakti scheme, and another recognising the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) as the most award-winning road transport corporation.

The company, with an office in Pahar Ganj, New Delhi, held a press conference at the Press Club of India in the capital on October 19.

Speaking to *DH*, Avinash Sakunde, the founder-president of the organisation, stated that the aim of the press meet was to put allegations to rest.

"We only got to know through social media that people were saying all sorts of things about our company. They were all untrue and just plain misunderstandings, so we decided we need to speak up. In this situation, the Karnataka government won't lose anything because their achievements are real, it is our company name that has been tarnished," he said.

He clarified that the company had, in fact, been dissolved earlier. "This was due to address issues. But we fixed the issue and got the company registered again in the UK. When people tried to get information about the company through AI like ChatGPT, they only found the older company as ChatGPT isn't up to date on the data.

This led to all the misunderstanding," he said, clarifying that the company had been operational for two years, registered under the Companies Act of 2006 under the Company No. 15807855, and working virtually out of New Delhi.

However, the press note stated that the company has only been operational since June 2024. And two different company numbers were mentioned in the same document, 15807855 and 15807885.

"Further, company number 15807885 was dissolved on 15/07/2025 and thereafter another company No. 16667234 was registered on 22/08/2025 with the same name and the person. There is no question of anything dubious, suspicious and issues of a dissolved company. The contact number is also clearly mentioned in our website," read the press note.

It is common practice for an organisation to charge a verification/processing fee before issuing a world record certificate, said Avinash.

"We only charged Rs 10,000 for this purpose. Companies like Guinness Records are known to charge in lakhs. But this is how the industry works. Once an entity reaches out to us, we thoroughly verify them before issuing the world record," he added.

He also clarified that the certificate posted on X by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah — and later deleted — was a "sample copy".

KMF launches sugarless sweets range

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has launched no added sugar range for Deepavali as people are preferring sweets that are better for their weight loss, diabetes and oral health.

The new sugarless sweets include Nandini Khova Gulab Jamun, which costs Rs 220 for 550 grams, Nandini Milk Peda, at Rs 170 for 200 grams, and Nandini Jaggery Oats and Nuts Barfi, at Rs170 for a pack of 200 grams.

During Dasara, the KMF said it sold over 750 metric tonnes of a variety of sweets. The KMF brand has over 175 milk and milk products that have been prepared and sold by them.

Failure to furnish data on execution petitions: SC seeks explanation from Karnataka HC Registrar General

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has taken exception to the failure of the Karnataka High Court to furnish details on pendency of execution petitions in the state and sought an explanation from the Registrar General within two weeks.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Pankaj Mithal by its judgment on March 6, 2025 in the case of "Periyammal (dead) through LRs & Ors Vs V Rajamani & Anr Etc" sought details of the pending execution petitions across the country.

Of all the High Courts, the court noted, unfortunately, the High Court of Karnataka has failed to furnish the court with the necessary data in this regard.

"Registrar General of the High Court of Karnataka owes an explanation why he has failed to provide us with the necessary information. Two weeks' time is granted to the Registrar General of the High Court to offer his explanation in this regard," the bench said.

The information provided by all other High Courts showed that as many as 8,82,578 execution petitions were pending

across the country.

"The statistics which we have received are highly disappointing. The figures of the pendency of the execution petitions across the country are alarming. As on date, 8,82,578 execution petitions are pending across the country. In last six months i.e., after our directions, in all 3,38,685 execution petitions have been decided and disposed of," the bench said.

The court granted further six months to all the High Courts to follow up with their respective district judiciary as regards the disposal of the execution petitions. The court scheduled the matter for further consideration on April 10, 2026.

In its March 6, 2025 judgment, the bench had said, once the data is collected by each of the High Courts, the High Courts shall thereafter proceed to issue an administrative order or circular, directing their respective district judiciary to ensure that the execution petitions pending in various courts should be decided and disposed of within a period of six months without fail otherwise the concerned presiding officer would be answerable to the High Court on its administrative side.

The court had also said, after the decree is passed, if it is going to take years and years to execute it, then it makes no sense and would be nothing short of travesty of justice.

Three students washed away in a canal in Saligrama

SALIGRAMA (MYSURU DISTRICT), DHNS: Three students, who went for a swim, were washed away at Chamaraja left bank canal on the outskirts of the town on Monday afternoon. The bodies of two students have been retrieved, search is on for the third one.

The deceased are Ayan (15) and Riyan (12), sons of Gram Panchayat member Shakeel, and Lukman (14), son of Mubarak, all residents of Saligrama.

Ayan and Riyan were studying at the Morarji Desai school in K R Pet taluk, Mandya district, while Lukman was studying in Class 9 in Saligrama. The duo had come for holidays and all the three went for a swim on Monday, when the incident occurred.

They were washed away due to the force of water, police said. As the children did not return home, the parents went in search of them, and came to know that they had gone near the canal. The water released into the canal was immediately stopped. While the bodies of Ayan and Lukman have been retrieved, search is on to find the body of Riyan. The bodies were shifted to K R Nagar taluk hospital for post mortem.

Saligrama police have registered a case.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that 1. **Mr. JOSEPH ARUN KAROTTU** S/o. Karottupuram Kurien Joseph intending to purchase the schedule property from its lawful owner Smt. GOWRAMMA W/o Late. Sri Venkataswamy R/at No. Dasarahalli Village, Jodi dasarahalli Post, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562 114.

Having acquired the same through a registered partition deed dated 04/01/2024, registered as document No.14662/2023-24, before the office of Sub-registrar, Hoskote, Bangalore Rural.

Anyone having any objections to the proposed sale may lodge their claim with the undersigned with documents, A within **14 days** from the date of this publication, failing which I would proceed with further transaction and documentation / execution of sale deed, and any claim lodged thereafter shall not be reckoned with and not binding on me.

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All that piece and parcel of Agricultural land bearing Sy.No. 51/6, Old Sy.No.51/1, measuring 1 Acre situated at Gottipura Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded as follows. **East By:** Smt. Krishnamma's Property; **West By:** Sri. Narayanaswami's Property; **North By:** Land in Sy.No.51/2; **South By:** Land in Sy.No.54.

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PERSONAL

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **Atharva Manchalkar,** Residing At Inamdar Colony House No. 572, Vijayapura Dist, do hereby declare that in my Aadhaar Card and Driving Licence, my Father's name is mentioned as **Ravi Dashrathrao Manchalkar,** in my Pan Card my Father's name is mentioned as **Ravi Dasharathrao Manchalkar,** In my 10th And 12th Marks Card my Father's name is mentioned as **Ravi,** In My Birth Certificate my Father's name is mentioned as **Ravi Dashrath Manchalkar,** and in my Voter Id Card my Father's name is mentioned as **Ravi Manchalkar.** These names refer to one and the same person, I.E., My Father. This declaration is made vide affidavit registered with certificate No. In-KA70462473668180X, Unique doc reference no. Subin-KAKAKSFCL085050992613 6386x In Article 4 Affidavit, Dated: 16-oct-2025, 10:46 am, before Advocate D.S Jinjarawad, Notary, Vijayapura.

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Bengaluru

Ola founder booked after engineer dies by suicide

Suicide, Page ?

"Soon after the complaint, we issued notices to those named in the FIR. They have appeared and submitted written explanations. Further investigation is underway," an investigating officer said.

Ashwin said the family grew suspicious when the company transferred Rs 17,46,313 via NEFT to his brother's bank account on September 30, 2025, two days after his death. When they questioned Dash regarding the suspicious payment on October 1, the HR initially didn't respond.

Company representatives later visited the family's residence and gave "vague" explanations about the financial transaction, which Ashwin called an "attempt to cover up the company's wrongdoing".

When the family discovered the death note, they immediately brought to the notice of the police, he added.

What company said

In a statement on Monday, Ola said it was "deeply saddened by the unfortunate demise" and that its thoughts were with the family.

The company said Aravind, who worked at Ola Electric for over three and a half years, never raised any complaint or grievance regarding his employment or any harassment, and had no direct interaction with the company's top management, including the promoter. Regarding the financial transaction, the company said it had "promptly" facilitated the full and final settlement to his bank account.

Revellers light fireworks as others prepare rangoli during the celebrations to mark Deepavali in New Delhi on Monday. AFP PHOTO

Vehicles move on a road shrouded in smog on the morning of Deepavali, in New Delhi on Monday. PHOTO/REUTERS

India revels in festival of lights; Delhi air quality plummets

Heavy rains fail to dampen Deepavali spirit in TN

NEW DELHI, PTI

Buildings decorated with colourful lights and earthen lamps dotted houses as people across the country thronged temples and celebrated Diwali with pomp on Monday.

Firecrackers were burst in plenty across the national capital following the Supreme Court's nod allowing the use of certified eco-friendly green crackers this year in Delhi and the NCR under regulated conditions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted people on the occasion and wished that the "festival of lights illuminate our lives with harmony, happiness and prosperity; and a spirit of positivity prevail all around us".

He celebrated Diwali with Naval personnel onboard the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant off the coast of Goa.

"Today, on one side, I have infinite horizons and infinite sky, and on the other side, I have this giant, INS Vikrant, embodying infinite powers. The glow of the sun's rays on the ocean's waters is like the Diwali lamps lit by brave soldiers," he said.

On Monday morning, Modi joined a yoga session on the deck of INS Vikrant and also witnessed a spectacular steampast of warships and a flypast by aircraft. He delivered an inspiring address to the Navy personnel and also distributed sweets among them.

Later, Modi met President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi and exchanged Diwali greetings. Vice President C P Radhakrishnan called on the President too and greeted each other.

Murmu greeted people with an X post in Hindi that said, "On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, I extend my greetings and best wishes to all Indians residing in India and abroad."

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, celebrated the day in a novel way. He put out a video of himself trying his hand at making 'imarti' and 'besan laddoo' at the famous Ghantewala sweet shop in Old Delhi, as he greeted people on Diwali and asked them to share how they are making the festival special.

In Delhi, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta appealed to the people to protect the city from pollution by using only green firecrackers. As the air quality worsened, she encouraged people to celebrate the festival in traditional ways by lighting diyas, making rangoli and sharing sweets.

Delhi's air quality deteriorated during the day and is expected to slip into the 'severe' category more widely on Tuesday and Wednesday, due to the bursting of firecrackers during the night.

The city's 24-hour average air quality index, which is reported at 4 pm every day, remained in the 'very poor' category at 345, higher than the 326 recorded on Sunday, according to official data.

The festival was celebrated with traditional fervour across Rajasthan, with markets witnessing heavy footfall, temples drawing large crowds, and fireworks lighting up the night sky.

The Kashi Vishwanath temple and other shrines in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi were decorated with flowers, earthen lamps, and vibrant lights. Chief Minister Adityanath visited the Hanumangarhi temple in Ayodhya and offered prayers there.

He and other leaders extended greetings to people on the occasion and prayed for the happiness and prosperity of all.

Muslim women here performed an 'aarti' of Lord Ram. Nazneen Ansari of the Muslim Women's Foundation said under the joint aegis of the Muslim Women's Foundation and Vishal Bharat Sansthan, the Shri Ram Maha Aarti was organised at Subhash Bhavan in Lamhi.

Heavy rains failed to dampen the Diwali spirit in Tamil Nadu. People woke up early, wore new attire and burst crackers to mark the festival of lights.

The Tamil Nadu government, citing a Supreme Court judgement of 2018, has said people may burst firecrackers for two hours - between 6 am and 7 am and from 7 pm to 8 pm. With the rains playing spoilsport, people had to be content with bursting crackers in breaks between spells of showers.

PM: India on the verge of eliminating Maoists

Modi, from Page 1

"Industries are emerging and schools and hospitals are shaping the future of the children," Modi added, crediting the security personnel for the turnaround.

His comments come days after more than 200 Maoist cadres including a few top leaders from Dandakaranya region (south Chhattisgarh) surrendered their arms, giving a blow to the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist), which is already reeling due to the deaths of its key operatives.

The prime minister spent the night on-board the homegrown carrier near the Panaji coast.

On Sunday evening, he attended the Diwali cultural programme performed by the sailors and took part in the grand feast (Bara Khana).

He also witnessed the navy's air power with MiG 29 aircraft demonstrating its skills on the aircraft carrier built at the Cochin Shipyard.

Modi took note the Indian Navy's role in guarding crucial sea lanes of communication. "Sixty six per cent of the world's oil supply and 50% of container shipments pass through the Indian Ocean. The Indian Navy is deployed as the guardian of the Indian Ocean to secure these routes," he said.

On increased indigenisation of military hardware, the prime minister said since 2014 the navy inducted 40 warships made at Indian yards. "One ship is inducted every 40 days," he said.

Elaborating on the roles the armed forces played during Operation Sindoor, he said, "The fear instilled by the Indian Navy, the extraordinary skill demonstrated by the Indian Air Force, and the bravery of the Indian Army, along with the exceptional coordination among all three services, brought Pakistan on its knees swiftly during Operation Sindoor."

The prime minister, who chaired the commissioning ceremony of INS Vikrant in 2022, said, "A few months ago we had seen how INS Vikrant had given Pakistan some sleepless nights. INS Vikrant, the name itself puts an end to the courage of the enemy."

'Hosur-B'luru metro line...

Metro line, from Page 1

However, the idea of a direct metro link between Bengaluru and Hosur has faced opposition in Karnataka, with critics arguing that it would benefit Hosur more than Bengaluru and further burden the city.

If Tamil Nadu proceeds with a metro up to the Karnataka border — about 12 km from Hosur — Attibele may get two stations, spaced about 300 metres apart. "The stations can be connected by a foot overbridge. That's the most feasible option," the official said.

The Bommasandra-Attibele line is one of four Namma Metro extensions under Phase 4. It will have 7-8 stations.

The BMRCL has also studied extending the Green Line from Madavara to Tumakuru (59.6 km). The state has directed it to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this Rs 20,896-crore line with 25 stations. The Green Line's southern extension — from Silk Institute to Harohalli on Kanakapura Road — will span 24 km with 18 stations. "Since villages are scattered in that area, there will be fewer stations," the official added. The Purple Line's western extension, from Challaghatta to Bidadi, will cover 15 km and have 13 stations.

Feasibility reports for all these four extensions have been prepared by Hyderabad-based Aarvee Associates Architects Engineers and Consultants Pvt Ltd. "The draft reports are ready and will be finalised by Oct-end," the official added.

In addition, the BMRCL is examining three more extensions and one new line.

These include: Blue Line extension (Doddajala-Devanahalli, 10 km), Purple Line extension (KR Puram-Hoskote, 16.3 km), Silver Line extension (Kadabagere-Tavarekere village, 6 km), and a new 68-km line from Kalena Agrahara to Kadugodi Tree Park via Bannerghatta, Jigani, Attibele, Sarjapur, Dommasandra and Varthur Kodi.

These studies were commissioned after the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs asked the BMRCL to prepare a master plan expanding the Bengaluru metro network to 470 km. The reports are expected shortly, the official added. "Preparing the master plan will help us get approvals in one go and speed up construction," another senior BMRCL official said.

"Instead of proposing short 30–40 km lines, we've been asked to plan a 200 km-plus expansion, given Bengaluru's severe traffic issues."

Together, the seven extensions and new line add up to 210.9 km, taking Namma Metro's total planned network to 467.69 km — almost equal to the Delhi-NCR metro's planned 467 km.

Indian Railways operating over 12k spl trains amid festive rush

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Ministry of Railways is operating total 12,011 special trains to to ferry passengers during ongoing festive season.

This number is a significant increase from 7,724 trains that operated during the same period last year, the Ministry said.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for the past two days visited New Delhi Railway Station, Anand Vihar Railway Station, the Railway Board War Room and personally monitored the situation.

"Indian Railways is operating at full strength to ensure smooth and comfortable travel for passengers during the ongoing festive rush. In addition to regular train services, railways has successfully operated 3,960 special trains between 1st October and 19th October 2025 to meet the increased travel demand during the festive period, " the statement said.

To further cater to the expected surge in passenger traffic for Diwali, and Chhath, Indian Railways plans to operate around 8,000 more special trains in the coming days.

Between 1st October and 19th October 2025, more than 1 crore passengers have already been facilitated by these special services.

The management of passenger movement has been streamlined across stations, with the provision of dedicated holding areas, additional ticket counters, potable water facilities, and clean washrooms to ensure a comfortable travel experience, the railways said.

In the New Delhi area — encompassing New Delhi, Delhi, Anand Vihar, Hazrat Nizamuddin, and Shakur Basti stations — a total of 15.17 lakh passengers travelled during 16th to 19th October 2025, as compared to 13.66 lakh passengers during the corresponding period last year, marking an increase of 1.51 lakh passengers.

At major stations special Arrangements include holding areas, more number of ticket counters, potable drinking arrangements, display of timing of trains & other comforts for the smooth travel of passengers.

Indian Railways remains committed to providing safe, comfortable, and hassle-free travel for all passengers during the festive rush. More than 12 lakh Railway employees are working tirelessly round the clock to ensure efficient operations and a pleasant journey experience for every traveller, the statement said.

UP IN SMOKE

Smoke billows after a fire broke out at a paper godown, in Madurai district, Tamil Nadu, on Monday. PTI PHOTO

Bihar polls: Cong, RJD set to face off in 5 seats

Bihar, from Page 1

CPI(ML)L, which is contesting 20 seats, and CPM fighting four constituencies do not face any 'friendly fight' this time. A top CPI leader said they would talk about it on Tuesday, indicating that backroom talks with Congress are on.

In another development, JMM, which had announced that it would fight six seats, said it would not contest, in some relief for the I.N.D.I.A bloc. But it said it would "review" the alliance in Jharkhand where RJD and Congress are junior partners. RJD was given six seats and a ministership by JMM and it believes that RJD-Congress engaged in a conspiracy to keep it away from Bihar.

While there are protests in Congress over candidate selection, hours before the nomination for the second phase of polls to end, the candidature of Minnat Rahmani was announced. Earlier, activist Anupam, who had joined Congress recently, was tipped to be the candidate but protests against him for his anti-Congress tweets earlier prompted the party to change its earlier decision.

The RJD list included Tejashwi Yadav (Raghopur), Alok Mehta (Ujiyarpur), Mukesh Raushan (Mahua) and Akhtarul Islam Shahin (Samastipur) and party chief Lalu Prasad's personal aide Bhola Yadav from Bahadurpur.

The RJD list shows that it is relying on its 'MY' (Muslim-Yadav) support base but it has taken care to give a substantial number of seats to no-Yadav OBCs as well as upper castes. It also has fielded 24 women.

SC Telangana ruling may impact Karnataka quota matrix

Quota, from Page 1

"Or else, this won't stand in line with the existing court judgments. States should recommend to the Centre," he added. Mahesh said this issue should not be politicised, adding that parties must arrive at a unanimous decision.

The developments have also brought back the demand over whether the sanctity of the 50% cap remains, since the 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) has been considered over and above the 50% cap and okayed by the Supreme Court.

Internal quota

In another development on October 16, the high court restrained the state government from making final appointments based on its decision of internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), even as it clarified that the recruitment process could go on.

The high court's interim order came after the Confederation of Untouchable Nomadic Communities of Karnataka moved the court against the state government's 6:6:5 formula for internal reservation, which it termed a "serious injustice" to the 'most backward' nomadic communities, which had been clubbed with the 'less backward' Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha communities.

The next hearing has been scheduled for November 13.

Since the current government has implemented internal reservation based on the 17% quota matrix itself, any judicial decision against the breach will affect the internal reservation matrix too.

Social Welfare Department Commissioner Rakesh Kumar said: "We feel the high court will favour the government, both in enhancing the reservation quota and implementing internal reservation. Both were not random decisions, and were taken only after sufficient application of mind and a scientific investigation."

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

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DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO3362/25-26

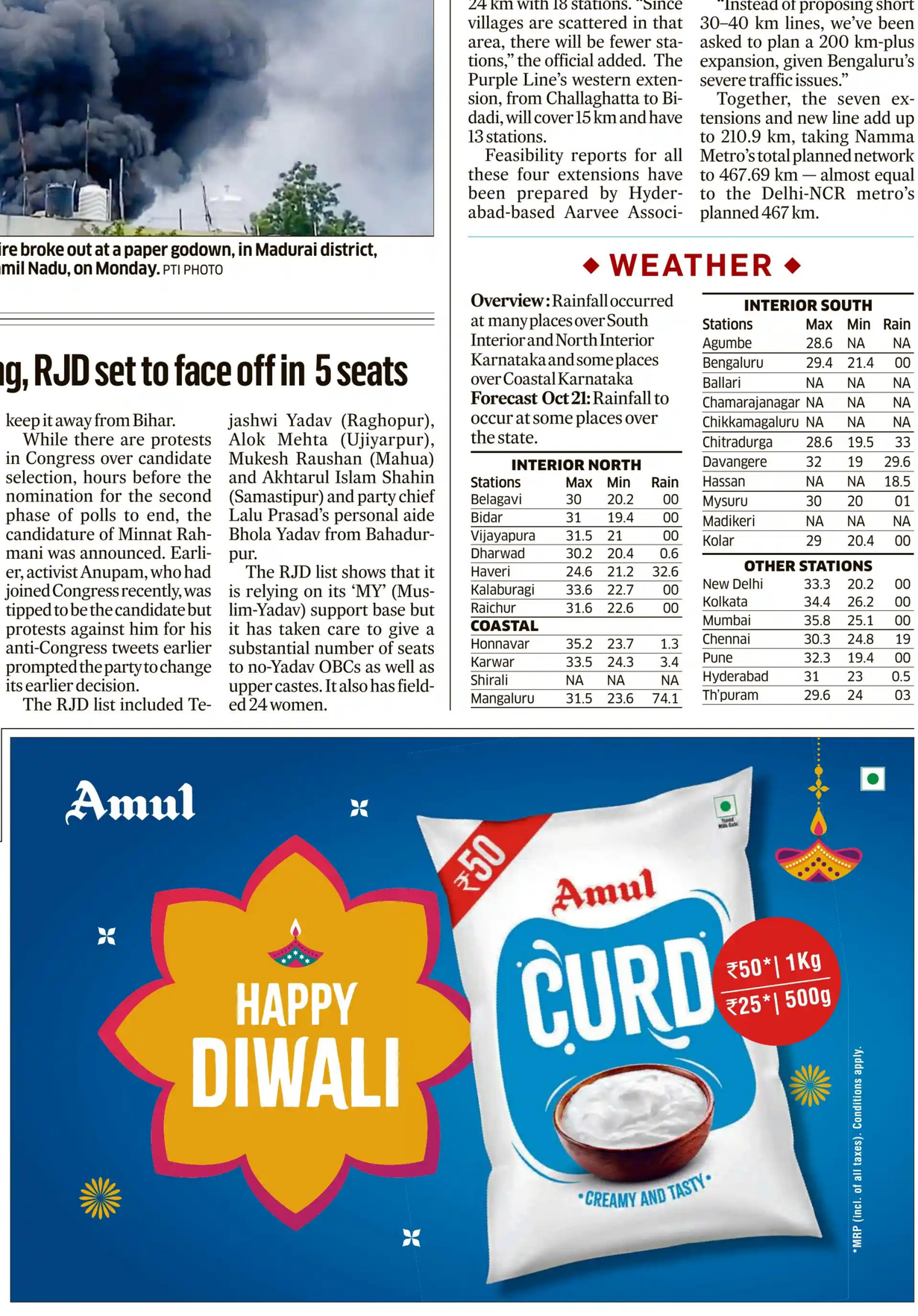
◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at many places over South Interior and North Interior Karnataka and some places over Coastal Karnataka

Forecast Oct 21: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	30	20.2	00
Bidar	31	19.4	00
Vijayapura	31.5	21	00
Dharwad	30.2	20.4	0.6
Haveri	24.6	21.2	32.6
Kalaburagi	33.6	22.7	00
Raichur	31.6	22.6	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	35.2	23.7	1.3
Karwar	33.5	24.3	3.4
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	31.5	23.6	74.1

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	28.6	NA	NA
Bengaluru	29.4	21.4	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	28.6	19.5	33
Davangere	32	19	29.6
Hassan	NA	NA	18.5
Mysuru	30	20	01
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	29	20.4	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	33.3	20.2	00
Kolkata	34.4	26.2	00
Mumbai	35.8	25.1	00
Chennai	30.3	24.8	19
Pune	32.3	19.4	00
Hyderabad	31	23	0.5
Th'puram	29.6	24	03



DECCAN HERALD
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Gold rush amid global headwinds

Gold prices have touched record levels in domestic (Rs 1,32,075 per 10 grams on Monday) and global markets in recent weeks, driven by various economic and geopolitical factors. The prices have remained volatile with an upward bias. Geopolitical tensions over the last few months and the possibility of an interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve have kept gold bullish. It has seen a 61% increase in prices this year. The prices of silver have also been racing, gaining about 90% this year. Gold and silver have made more gains than all other savings and investment avenues, such as stocks and fixed deposits. The past few months have seen record inflows in gold-backed exchange-traded funds. A fear of missing out in the rally has also been fuelling the momentum.

Gold has always been the safe-haven asset in times of economic trouble, political turmoil, and social upheaval. Its stability and global liquidity have ensured a universal acceptability. It has had an inverse relationship with the US dollar – the reason why it gained when the dollar weakened. If the US economy improves and the dollar rises, the gold prices may move down. If the central banks sell gold, that could also impact its prices. But the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which holds a record stock of around 879 tonnes, is not likely to dispose of any part of its gold. The share of gold in India's foreign exchange reserves has gone up to 14%. Even when gold prices have declined after a steady rise, they have never retraced their upward journey or fallen substantially. That is one of the reasons for its enduring attraction.

The surge driven by geopolitical tensions and other factors reaffirms gold as a safe-haven asset

Gold continues to hold immense value in terms of personal wealth, social stature, and family assets – in India, it also comes with a psychological attraction. The country is the world's second largest consumer of gold, after China, and weddings here are also occasions to display the yellow metal. The festive season is on, and the impact of the soaring prices is yet to be known. Usually, a surge in prices slackens demand for some time, but the market comes back to normal business soon. The import of gold at high prices results in a greater drain of foreign exchange when trade equations are working against the country due to the ongoing tariff war. The campaign to reduce the attraction for gold, which is a non-productive asset, has not worked, and the metal has only become dearer.

A steep price for a systemic wrong

The Karnataka government's decision to allow 'B' khata properties in Bengaluru to be converted into 'A' khata by paying 5% of the property's guidance value is a welcome and long-overdue move. It promises to bring long-denied legitimacy to lakhs of property owners, streamline civic records, and boost municipal revenues. For a city where nearly 7.5 lakh properties remain in limbo, this initiative could finally bridge the divide between the regular and the irregular. However, the stumbling block lies in the high cost of conversion. The 5% fee may prove unaffordable for many middle-class site owners. For instance, a 30x40 site in an area where the guidance value is Rs 7,000 per sq ft would cost Rs 4.2 lakh to convert. This is a steep price for families who bought such sites with their life's savings. It must also be remembered that these owners have already paid stamp duty at the time of registration, based on the then prevailing guidance value.

The problem, however, is not the citizens' making. Successive governments must share the blame for allowing registration of 'B' khata sites and collecting property taxes from them, thereby giving these sites a veneer of legality. Having legitimised the practice for years, the government cannot now turn around and impose a punitive cost for correction. It should never have allowed such registrations in the first place. The current mess is the result of decades of administrative apathy and political expediency, where votes and revenue took precedence over planned development and civic discipline. Moreover, the scope of the scheme is limited. It applies only to vacant sites and plots with single-unit buildings, leaving out thousands of apartment owners who also hold 'B' khatas. Likewise, there are scores of legally registered layouts on Bengaluru's outskirts coming under panchayats where buyers have paid stamp duty and taxes in good faith. These, too, deserve to be brought under the scheme.

The conversion scheme offers legitimacy for 'B' khata properties, but makes citizens pay for a governance failure

The 100-day application window, starting November 1, also seems too short, given the scale of the exercise and the financial burden involved. A staggered or phased approach would have been more practical. If the charges are too high, the scheme risks discouraging participation and defeating its own purpose. Though the process can be done online, citizens are often compelled to complete it physically, often paying hefty bribes to get their work done. The move to convert 'B' khata to 'A' khata is indeed a step in the right direction. But for it to succeed, the government must ensure that affordability and fairness, not merely fiscal gain, guide its implementation.

A VALUE SHIFT

The vulnerability of India's new middle class

The neo-middle class reflects the country's contradictions – aspirational yet insecure, empowered yet weary

GURUCHARAN GOLLERKERI

The Indian middle class has long been treated as the moral and economic centre of the Republic – the great stabiliser between wealth and want, modernity and tradition, democracy and aspiration. For decades, it was imagined through Nehruvian lenses: salaried, educated, thrifty, professionally ambitious, politically moderate, and socially respectable. But that middle class – the one that carried briefcases, read English newspapers, and believed in steady progress – no longer exists. The middle class of 2025 is a different creature altogether: digitally dependent, aspirationally global, but financially fragile. They shop online but borrow offline; they work in start-ups but live in rented homes; they send their children to international schools but can't afford a medical emergency. This "neo-middle" class – perhaps 200 to 300 million strong, depending on how you count – is not just changing consumption patterns but also reshaping India's social psychology and political temperament.

Let's begin with a paradox: the mirage of comfort. By income data, India's middle class appears to be expanding. According to CMIE, nearly one in three households now reports monthly incomes between Rs 25,000 and Rs 1 lakh – a range roughly corresponding to the middle 40% of India's income pyramid. Yet the sense of security that defined the middle class in the 1980s and 1990s has evaporated. Household savings have fallen to a five-decade low of under 6% of GDP, and household debt has surged. EPFO data show that formal employment growth is slowing, while contract and gig-based work is rising – a phenomenon invisible in headline GDP figures. The middle class is consuming more but saving less, owning more gadgets but fewer assets. Their balance sheets are stretched thin by EMIs, school fees, and healthcare costs that rise faster than income.

The illusion of comfort masks an underlying vulnerability. One job loss, one illness, or one loan default can push many urban families from middle class to marginal. This is not the 'security class' that shaped post-liberalisation India; it is an 'anxious class' living month to month, buffered only by optimism and mobile apps.

We are beginning to see digital dependency and the new consumer. The smartphone has become the neo-middle class's passport to aspiration. They buy groceries, insurance, and financial advice online; they date, argue, and protest online; they discover new identities through YouTube, Instagram, and regional-language influencers. But digital access has not meant digital empowerment.

India's digital economy is structured to monetise attention rather than expand agency. Algorithms nudge people to spend, not to save; to aspire, not to question. The middle class is caught in a consumption feedback loop, always

comparing, always dissatisfied, and always buying the next upgrade. CMIE's data show a curious trend: while real wages have stagnated, discretionary consumption – on smartphones, travel, and dining – continues to rise. The middle class is spending its way to status, even when it can't afford it. This behaviour, sociologically, is less about luxury and more about belonging. Consumption has become the new citizenship.

Consider the education illusion. Education was once the surest passport into the middle class. Today, it is its costliest burden. The private-school economy – worth over Rs 2.5 lakh crore – now consumes a fifth or more of many urban middle-class households' income. The dream of global education drives families to borrow heavily for foreign degrees, even when returns are uncertain. Yet the employability crisis is deepening. Graduate unemployment remains high, and the wage premium for degrees is shrinking. The neo-middle class is caught in what economists call a 'credential trap', investing more in education for diminishing returns. Parents are paying for hope, not for certainty. In this landscape, education has turned into a positional good: a way to signal class identity rather than guarantee mobility. It reinforces insecurity: if everyone else is learning coding or AI, I must too, lest I fall behind. The middle class has turned education from a social ladder into a keeping-up-with-the-Joneses frame.

No longer the moral pivot

The old middle class once prided itself on moderation: politically cautious, economically prudent, and socially conservative. The new, by contrast, is emotionally volatile, politically expressive, and digitally mobilised. Social media has democratised voice but also polarised sentiment. The neo-middle class often views politics less through ideology and more through identity and grievance – whether about reservation, corruption, taxation, or perceived cultural threats. They are demanding from the State both protection from economic precarity and validation of their social worth. This partly explains the appeal of welfare schemes that target 'lower-middle' segments. India's political future may well hinge on how this aspirational, anxious class is courted – not by ideology, but by empathy.

The old middle class was born of the public sector, trained to value stability, education, and civic virtue. It was shaped by scarcity and guided by ideals of respectability. The neo-middle class, in contrast, is born of the private economy and the digital marketplace. It values visibility over virtue, flexibility over permanence, and consumption over thrift. Its cultural icons are not civil servants or scientists, but start-up founders, influencers, and YouTube tutors. This shift is not merely sociological; it redefines what 'progress' means in 21st-century India. The middle class once anchored India's moral universe. Now, it mirrors its contradictions: entrepreneurial yet insecure, connected yet lonely, empowered yet exhausted.

The result is a policy blind spot. The State still imagines society as a binary – rich versus poor – leaving the middle class largely invisible in welfare design. Taxation penalises them, subsidies are minimal, and inflation erodes real incomes. A new social compact is overdue, one that recognises the vulnerabilities of this segment and invests in affordable health, quality education, and pension security. If India's next growth story is to be sustainable, it must focus less on expanding the middle class in number and more on deepening its security in substance.

(The writer is Director, School of Social Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Narakasura and the sparkle of *pataki*

What is sweeter than the sweetest of desserts? Memories of childhood

PADMA SASTRY

Growing up in Bengaluru until my teen years with my siblings and many cousins, there was no dearth of festivals in my traditional home. Apart from the story that never failed to enchant me as a child, narrated colourfully by my Ajji, of Narakasura, the evil demon slain by Lord Vishnu, this day meant waiting with bated breath for my father to come home with *patakis* in boxes. That this was a serious adult task for him to sort and hand them to children according to their ages did not alleviate my impatience. I would watch for hours, my mother decorating the doorframe with flowers, drawing colourful drawings on the front porch and polishing silver articles to a shine that could shame a mirror.

The much-awaited Deepavali trundled in slowly overnight, dawning into a day of endless celebration. Rituals handed down for generations mandated most, if not all, activities of the day. It would begin with viscous castor oil warmed up just enough, applied to the scalp and hair, and massaged by my mother, whose strong hands belied her petite being, all to be washed off with hot water straight from a big water heater, the *Handai*. Wrapped in a towel that only enabled us to waddle like ducks, brand new clothes would claim us soon as the rightful owners. Feasting on the day with savouries and sweets, new recipes that straddled the traditional ones made their way out of the kitchen, multiple aromas wafting in perfect harmony. Evening had little clay lamps lit and lined up on the walls, their tiny little flames swaying to the gentle breeze.

Never was there a time that I waited for darkness to fall more than on the night of Deepavali. For fireworks. The horse crackers, the smallest ones of the lot, came strung in hundreds, causing the entire string to pop once lit, all the way to the end. The elephant crackers were twice the size and noisier; even bigger ones followed, reserved for the older children. Innocuous ones like the snake would hiss around the floor when lit, and simple matchsticks or *mathapu* burnt coloured flames. Drawing imaginary figures in the air off the carefully held long sparklers was magical. The conical flowerpots would spew beautiful rainfall of sparkles for a few seconds of sheer joy. The wheels would spin around while making patterns of beautiful spirals of colourful sparks, mesmerising me. The rockets perched meticulously in an elevated spot and lit by a responsible adult would blast just like a rocket and sail into the dark nightly air with a bright trajectory following its path. Reality would strike us at the end when the boxes that once overflowed with treasure now sadly showed the bottom.

For over thirty years now, while I lovingly celebrate this day in my own home, several thousand miles away, I ponder. What is sweeter than the sweetest of desserts? Richer than the richest of treasures?

Memories. Memories of childhood. Of stories. Of sights. Of touch.

To my memories and yours, Happy Deepavali!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Armed forces function best without external interference

It is concerning that there seems to be a deliberate attempt to put our armed forces in the spotlight. Political pundits attribute this to the government's desire to give the forces credit for their prompt response to recent Pakistan-inspired attacks on innocent tourists in Pahalgam. While the details of the successful retribution have received sufficient publicity, what is more worrying is the unprecedented freedom with which two Service Chiefs, in particular, have continued to appear in public and indulge in rhetoric that is alien to our military tradition and perilously close to political practice. Defence forces must maintain their traditional distance from civilian activity, which has fostered public trust in their neutrality. The recent television conclave was an unusual departure from this norm, and it is hoped that it will be the last of its kind. Our defence forces function best when left to follow time-tested traditions without external interference.
T C Narayan, Bengaluru

Questionable priorities

It is disturbing that the Supreme Court has had to issue directives to the government to build pedestrian-friendly roads across the country. The Court's observation that safe and well-maintained roads are a fundamental right of citizens is a stark reminder of the government's failure in this regard. Rampant corruption and lack of accountability have led to the country's roads becoming increasingly hazardous. The government's inaction on this issue is a clear indication of its skewed priorities.
S Shashidhar, Bengaluru

Focus on public health

Apropos 'Banned and back: How green is your cracker?' (Oct 18), the Supreme Court's decision to allow green crackers in Delhi NCR from October 18 to 20 is a compromise that prioritises appeasement over public health. While green crackers may be less polluting than conventional ones, they still emit harmful particles that pose a significant risk to vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly.
K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

BJP's Jagadish Shettar also ordered organisations to seek permission for public events during his tenure (as CM), but if Congress does the same, they blame us.

Siddaramaiah, Karnataka CM

It's not how you play the game, it's how you place the blame.

Don Simpson

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Donald Trump and weaponised peace

Considering his support for militarism and self-serving style of diplomacy, a Nobel would have been farcical

ROGER MARSHALL

It would have been a real travesty if the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize had been awarded to Donald Trump, the man who single-handedly waged war on the entire world through his tariffs and brought enormous economic grief to millions of people. Trump's claim to bringing about peace between the Palestinians and Israelis can only be termed as laughable since Israel's genocidal and wanton destruction of Gaza, and the killing of thousands of men, women, and children can be directly attributed to the $22 billion military aid authorised by Trump between October 2023 and October 2025 for the defence of Israel. Trump saw it fit to give Greenland $50 million to save the polar bears but gutted USAID, the one organisation which provided food, medicine and housing for much of sub-Saharan Africa and other poor countries in the region.

The awarding of the peace prize to Maria Corina Machado of Venezuela presents its own set of problems since she is openly calling for regime change in Caracas, well aware that Trump would oblige her in the not too distant future. The signs are all there – summary executions of supposedly drug cartel members via missile attacks on fishing vessels off the coast of Venezuela, an inordinate focus on illegal Venezuelan migrants in the US and their rendition to Trump-friendly countries in Latin America and Africa, the stationing of United States warships off the coast of Venezuela, the CIA meddling in the country's internal affairs and frequent public denunciations of Nicolas Maduro, the country's current president.

If genocide equates to peace, the following US presidents should also have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize – Harry Truman for dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Richard Nixon and Lyndon B. Johnson for carpet bombing Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, and Bush Jr for decimating Iraq. Among the non-US leaders, Lenin, Stalin, Hitler, Mao, and Pol Pot occupy pride of place. And Benjamin Netanyahu.

A broker of deals

Trump's fixation on winning the peace prize is driven by greed, envy and racism. John le Carré has drawn comparisons between the rise of Donald Trump and the emergence of fascism in 1930s Europe, and highlighted the "toxic" similarities. The late British author's criticism pointed to the resurgence of a contagious and infectious fascism.

If Barack Obama was given the prize in 2009 for not doing much to merit the award, why shouldn't Trump be afforded the same honour? If Trump did negotiate the ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, as a real estate person, he would necessarily insist on being paid broker's fees, be it in cash or kind. The Riviera on the Gaza strip is not just a pipe dream; it is about to become a reality in a few years, the prime beneficiaries being the Trump family and the Trump Organisation. In his attempt to negotiate a settlement between Ukraine and Russia in their ongoing war, Trump insisted on Zelenskyy signing away the rights to all the mineral resources in Ukraine. If Trump does get involved in 'brokering' a deal between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue, he would want to set up a string of hotels, golf courses, and casinos in the Union Territory.

Several months ago, Trump bemoaned the fact that people from 'shit-hole' countries in Africa and elsewhere in the global South were immigrating in large numbers, legally or otherwise, to the US and that he would rather have white immigrants from Norway. Now that Norway has snubbed him by giving the peace prize to a Venezuelan, and given Trump's vengeful nature, it should come as no surprise if he decides to sanction Norway and ban the Norwegians on the prize selection committee from entering the US. When Netanyahu was indicted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court (ICC), Trump sanctioned the ICC judges who rendered the verdict.

The supposed ceasefire negotiated by Trump is already coming apart at the seams and Gazans are still paying the price. It is a good thing that Trump did not get the peace prize; had it been otherwise, it would have been a bankrupt decision, much like all the other bankruptcies that the Trump ventures have ultimately resulted in – Trump casinos, Trump Air, Trump University, etc.

Who else but Trump would choose to rename the Department of Defence as the Department of War? Make America Great Again under Trump? Not a chance.

(The writer is a retired professor; he has written extensively and presented lectures on the societal and geo-political implications of technology)

Silencing the letters: When publishers trade courage for compliance

MAJID MAQBOOL

The recent government order banning selected books in Jammu and Kashmir, followed by police raids on Valley bookshops to enforce compliance, has drawn criticism from democratic-minded citizens and the targeted authors themselves — with the only exceptions being those aligned with right-wing politics.

Issued under the authority of Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha, the government claimed that these works were spreading "a false narrative and secessionism in Jammu and Kashmir." The order alleged that such books "deeply impact the psyche of the youth by promoting a culture of grievance, victimhood, and terrorist heroism," holding them responsible for "radicalisation, distortion of historical facts, glorification of terrorists, vilification of security forces, religious radicalisation, promotion of alienation, and a pathway to violence and terrorism." All these charges have been firmly denied by the authors.

The banned writers have rejected these sweeping accusations, defending their scholarship and denying any role in promoting secessionism or violence. Sumantra Bose, whose book, *Kashmir at the Crossroads*, was among those banned, expressed surprise: "When you look at the 25 books, there's a relatively diverse range of authors. The common thread is that none of them align with the Hindu nationalist narrative or the government's stance on Kashmir—and that is what unites them." Anuradha Bhasin, editor of *Kashmir Times* and author of *Dismantled State*, warned that such prohibitions will have lasting repercussions for future publications concerning Kashmir. "Publishers will hesitate before releasing anything critical about Kashmir... The ban is part of a calculated strategy to erase historical narratives and alternative perspectives," she said.

While authors spoke out, their publishers remained conspicuously silent. India's major publishing houses, which have long benefited from the scholarship of these writers, have not protested the ban on their books. There were no public statements of support, no tweets, and not even token solidarity. Weeks after the ban made headlines, mainstream publishers, who had published some of these banned books, maintained a calculated silence. Their refusal to engage spoke volumes about the sorry state of Indian publishing.

Among the banned titles are works by eminent writers and scholars such as the late A G Noorani, Sumantra Bose, Christopher Snedden, Victoria Schofield, and Hafsa Kanjwal. All of them have engaged with Kashmir through rigorous research and nuanced analysis. These books, published by established and independent presses alike, challenge the simplistic narratives propagated by the State.

In refusing to defend their authors or question the legitimacy of the ban, publishers become complicit in attempts to silence critical voices and stifle honest debate about government policies. This silence is not unprecedented. Indian publishers have often lacked the courage to stand by their authors when State agencies seek to suppress inconvenient voices. A telling example is Penguin India's reaction to Wendy Doniger's *The Hindus: An Alternative History*, published in 2014. Despite the book's scholarly acclaim, Hindu right-wing groups condemned it for "distorting" Hindu culture. Following a lawsuit citing Indian laws against offending religious sentiments, Penguin India caved under pressure and pulped all remaining copies. Publishing houses frequently prioritise business interests over protecting intellectual freedom and defending independent scholarship.

Every time publishers remain silent on book bans, authors grow more vulnerable to threats and censorship. The broader academic and literary community is thus discouraged from researching or writing about sensitive topics. A chilling effect takes root, steadily eroding independent scholarship.

There is another layer to this irony. Many of the same publishers who fail to support critical voices also publish and aggressively market works aligned with government policies. Penguin Random House India, for example, recently released a book, *370: Undoing the Unjust*, and marketed it as a "definitive account of how Article 370 was abrogated", framing it as an authoritative "inside story" that highlights the supposed benefits of dismantling Kashmir's autonomy. Other major publishers have also published titles amplifying the government's narrative on Jammu and Kashmir.

The suppression of dissenting books sends a clear message: only works that promote government talking points may remain on bookshelves, while critical titles risk enforced disappearance. Books deemed "anti-national" are removed from circulation, while those that reinforce state narratives are selectively promoted.

Publishing houses cannot retreat into neutrality and silence to escape their responsibilities to their authors and readers. Their choices — whether to remain silent or to resist frequent government bans — carry significant consequences for freedom of expression. Silence is not an apolitical or neutral act; it enables and legitimises further censorship.

These publishers initially rely on critical voices to build their prestige and catalogues but abandon them when the State cracks down. Their commitments to defend free speech prove to be hollow under scrutiny. Writers are thus left alone, and banned books become symbols of stifled discourse. What prevails is a corrosive culture of enforced silence.

Will publishers reflect on their roles and ask themselves: are they mere commercial enterprises producing products, or do they have a greater responsibility as custodians of ideas, arguments, and scholarship essential to a thriving literary culture and civilised society? Should they reduce themselves to mere conduits of government propaganda or speak up whenever ruling governments silence their writers and remove selected books from bookshelves? Ultimately, will they continue to let the argument of power triumph over the power of argument?

(The author is an independent journalist and writer based in Kashmir)

Xi Jinping seems to believe that only his continued rule can secure China's rise. But as he ages, choosing a successor will become riskier and more difficult

CHRIS BUCKLEY

At 72, Xi Jinping has led China for nearly 13 years. There are no signs that he plans to step down, and he has said nothing about who might succeed him. REUTERS

In China, a forbidden question looms: Who leads after Xi?

Behind closed doors in Beijing this week, China's top officials are meeting to refine a plan to secure its strength in a turbulent world. But two great questions hang over the nation's future, even if no one at the meeting dares raise it: How long will Xi Jinping rule, and who will replace him when he is gone?

Xi has led China for 13 years, amassing dominance to a degree unseen since Mao Zedong. He has shown no sign of wanting to step down. Yet his longevity at the top could, if mismanaged, sow the seeds of political turbulence: He has neither an heir apparent nor a clear timetable for designating one.

With each year that he stays in office, uncertainty deepens about who would step in if, say, his health failed, and whether the new leader would stick to or soften Xi's hard-line course.

Xi faces a dilemma familiar to long-serving autocrats. Naming a successor risks creating a rival centre of power and weakening his grip, but failing to settle on a leader-in-waiting could jeopardise his legacy and sow rifts in China's political elite. And at 72, Xi will likely have to search for a potential heir among much younger officials, who must still prove themselves and win his trust.

If Xi eventually chooses a successor, loyalty to him and his agenda will almost surely be a paramount requirement. He has said that the Soviet Union made a fatal mistake by picking reformer Mikhail Gorbachev, who oversaw its dissolution. On Friday, Xi made his intolerance for any disloyalty clear when the military announced that it had expelled nine senior officers, who face prosecution on charges of corruption and abuse of power.

"Xi almost surely realises the importance of succession, but he also realises that it's incredibly difficult to signal a successor without undermining his own power," said Neil Thomas, a fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute's Centre for China Analysis. "The immediate political and economic crises that he faces could end up continually outweighing the priority of getting around to executing a succession plan."

Speculation about Xi's future is highly sensitive and censored in China, and only a handful of officials may be privy to his thinking about the issue. Foreign diplomats, experts and investors will be looking for clues from the four-day meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee that started Monday, bringing together hundreds of senior officials.

The meeting, usually held behind closed doors in the specially built Jingxi Hotel in Beijing, is expected to approve a plan for China's development over the next five years. Xi has made securing a global lead in technological innovation and advanced manufacturing a priority, and that goal is likely to feature heavily. He and his officials have expressed confidence that their approach can prevail over President Donald Trump's tariffs and export controls.

"At the heart of strategic rivalry among the great powers is a contest for comprehensive strength," senior Chinese lawmakers said in a report they issued last month on the proposed plan. "Only by vigorously upgrading our own economic power, scientific and technological strength, and overall national power can we win the strategic initiative."

In theory, the meeting this week could offer a window into China's next generation of leaders, if Xi chooses to elevate younger officials into more prominent roles. But many analysts expect him to delay any major moves, at least until after his likely fourth five-year term begins in 2027, and perhaps well beyond that.

"Then I think it has to start looming larger, if not in his own mind, then in the people around him," said Jonathan Czin, a researcher on Chinese politics at the Brookings Institution who has written about Xi's succession scenarios and the Central Committee meeting. "Even if the people in his immediate orbit don't start jockeying for position for themselves, they're going to be jockeying on behalf of their own protégés."

Xi has seen first-hand how succession struggles can shake the Communist Party. His father, a senior official, was ousted by Mao. As a local official during the 1989 pro-democracy protests, Xi witnessed how divisions at the top helped tip China into upheaval; ultimately, Deng Xiaoping purged the party's general secretary, Zhao Ziyang, and installed a new heir apparent, Jiang Zemin.

"Especially as someone who spends so much time studying the lessons of China's dynastic cycles and the history of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Xi knows that the succession is a major issue he must think through," said Christopher K. Johnson, the president of China Strategies Group, a consulting firm, who previously worked as a U.S. intelligence official focused on China.

For now, Xi seems convinced that China's ascendancy depends on his continued stewardship. He bulldozed past the example of orderly retirement set by his predecessor, Hu Jintao, and abolished the presidency's two-term limit in 2018, enabling Xi to stay in office indefinitely as head of the party, the state and the military.

But each year that Xi stays in power, it becomes harder to find an heir who is both young enough to rule for decades and seasoned enough to command authority in his shadow.

Xi has packed the Politburo Standing Committee — the seven-member body at the apex of party power — with longtime allies. They are in their 60s or older, likely too old to be plausible heirs several years from now, experts said. Xi was 54 when he joined the Standing Committee in 2007, a promotion that underlined his status as a favourite to become the next leader.

Even officials poised to be elevated to central leadership at the next Communist Party congress, in 2027, are probably too advanced in age to succeed Xi, said Victor Shih, a professor at the University of California San Diego who studies elite politics in China.

With Xi likely to serve another term or even longer, his successor could prove to be an official born in the 1970s, likely now working in a provincial administration or an agency of the central government. The party has been promoting some younger officials who fit that profile, said Wang Hsin-hsien, a professor at National Chengchi University in Taiwan who studies the Communist Party.

But Xi also appears to be worried about officials who have not been tested by hardship or responsibility. He has warned that seemingly minor shortcomings in officials can become serious threats in moments of crisis — or, as he has put it, "A small crack can become a massive collapse" in a dam wall.

"Xi is highly distrustful of others, especially those officials who have only an indirect relationship with him," Wang said. "As he grows older and has fewer connections to the generation of his possible successors, this factor will become more important."

In the years ahead, the upper ranks of the party may grow more fluid as Xi tests and discards potential recruits for leadership, experts said. Behind the scenes, officials within his circle may jockey more intensely for influence and political survival.

"This will make the succession process more fragmented, because he can't possibly just have one designated successor," Shih said. "It has to be a collective to choose from, and that probably also means they will have low-grade power struggles with each other."

The New York Times

Why menstrual leave matters

JYOTHI S

The Karnataka government has taken a progressive step by approving one day of paid menstrual leave every month for women working in government and private sectors, including garment, information technology, and multinational companies. As this decision sparks public debate, it becomes crucial to examine its practical implications, implementation challenges, and potential impact on workplace equality and productivity.

This initiative follows similar measures introduced in Bihar, Odisha, and Kerala. Karnataka—already proactive in implementing several women-centric schemes and encouraging greater female participation in the workforce—has now extended its support through this policy. The move positions the state among those recognising menstrual health as a workplace and welfare concern rather than a private issue.

Svetlana Alexievich, in *The Unwomanly Face of War*, documents how women soldiers endured menstruation without basic facilities or dignity—a reminder that menstrual discomfort has long been ignored even in the harshest environments. While menstruation is a natural biological process, it continues to be surrounded by silence and stigma, despite ancient cultural traditions like the Kamakhya temple in Assam once celebrating it as a symbol of creation. Policies like menstrual leave therefore play a crucial role in normalising public conversations and institutional support for women's health.

Traditionally, women were given rest during menstruation as a recognition of their physical and emotional strain. However, with the rise of patriarchal norms, this understanding turned into exclusion and stigma. Centuries of silence around menstruation have reinforced feelings of shame and discomfort. In this context, policy measures like menstrual leave are not merely welfare provisions but steps toward reclaiming dignity and equality in both social and professional spaces.

Thanks to decades of collective struggle, more women today are pursuing education and careers than ever before. Yet, many continue to experience discomfort, anxiety, and stigma during menstruation, especially in workplaces and public spaces that lack adequate facilities or understanding. Unpredictable cycles and inadequate access to menstrual hygiene products can disrupt work and confidence, underscoring the need for institutional measures like menstrual leave and better workplace infrastructure.

The government's decision to introduce menstrual leave is both bold and progressive. Though every woman may not need it, the policy promotes openness around women's health. Predictably, some critics argue that such provisions could impose financial or productivity burdens on organisations—concerns similar to those raised about maternity benefits. However, evidence consistently shows that women employees contribute significantly to efficiency and productivity, often taking fewer discretionary leaves and displaying strong commitment to their work. Rather than viewing menstrual leave as a cost, employers should see it as an investment in workforce well-being and gender equity.

While the policy is progressive, its success depends on changing long-held social attitudes. Menstruation must be normalised, and women should feel confident to speak about it, seek leave when necessary, and discuss their health without embarrassment. However, a concern remains that some institutions might hesitate to hire women due to this policy. This needs to be addressed by the government and legal bodies through strict implementation guidelines and awareness campaigns to ensure that menstrual leave promotes equality rather than discrimination.

Extending this facility to girls in schools and colleges would further strengthen their right to education and ensure a more inclusive learning environment. While granting a full day of leave each month may not be practical in academic institutions, a small exemption in the required attendance percentage could serve as a menstrual leave provision, acknowledging both health needs and educational continuity.

By institutionalising such support, both society and the government can empower girls to pursue education, secure meaningful employment, and lead independent lives, thereby enhancing self-worth.

In fact, policies that respect the physical and psychological realities of women foster healthier and more productive workplaces. Menstrual leave, therefore, should not be seen merely as a welfare measure but as an affirmation of dignity. It acknowledges that productivity is not only about uninterrupted work but also about humane working conditions.

(The writer is an associate professor of English, Tumkur University, Tumakuru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

State Ordinance abolishes bonded labour

Bangalore, October 20
The much-assailed practice of bonded labour has been legally abolished in Karnataka by an ordinance today. The Karnataka Bonded Labour System Abolition Ordinance, issued by the Governor in pursuance of the 20-point programme, makes the practice of bonded labour punishable by imprisonment up to three months and a fine of Rs. 500. Under the ordinance, all obligations on the part of the debtor for services to the creditor stand abolished with effect from today. All dues from such debtors stand discharged.

25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

Clean Village programme launched in State

Kolar, Oct 20 (DHNS & PTI)
The State Government proposes to implement the Clean Village programme in all villages of the state. In the first phase, the government aims at achieving 100 per cent cleanliness in 1,000 villages, Chief Minister S M Krishna said today. Speaking at an event held in Manchanabele village in Chikballapur taluk to inaugurate the Clean Village and Strishakthi programmes, he said about Rs 20 lakh would be spent on a village with about 500 families under the Clean Village programme.

OASIS | SUDHA UMASHANKER

Satyameva jayate: A motto worth living by

In today's society one of the many casualties is the Truth. From petty lies to distortions or blatant falsehoods, the violations are of varying degrees.

Needless to say, this sullies the atmosphere, affects credibility and leaves us with little trust in the words, statements and promises made by people – family, friends, staff, service providers, influencers, and just about everybody whose life touches us.

As the saying goes, we must take everything with a pinch of salt or remember that the truth lies somewhere in between.

With social media dominating our lives, discerning users know who can be counted on to be honest, and the peddlers of all things fake are openly called out. And all this is hard to digest because *Satyameva Jayate* is the national motto of India.

When untruths are trotted out with ease, it becomes a long-drawn effort to go about establishing the actual facts.

There are people who believe that if a falsehood is repeated often enough, a day will come when that will be accepted as the truth. But we all know that even for the boy who cried wolf, the bluff was eventually called.

Our scriptures too urge us to uphold the truth at all costs – even if it means undergoing hardships or accepting our mistakes.

There is a story in the Mahabharata which runs thus: During their exile in the forest, Arjuna and Draupadi came upon a humongous gooseberry on a tree. Draupadi couldn't resist plucking it when a sage came by and told her to desist from eating it, as it was meant for Sage Amritra, who was about to break a twelve-year fast.

They were sure to incur his wrath if she gave in to the temptation and ate it.

The Pandavas sought Lord Krishna's advice, and he said that if each of them made a true confession, the lapse would be forgiven.

Yuddhishtra emphasised the need for truthfulness to flourish; Bheema and Arjuna openly disclosed that they wanted to kill Duryodhana and Karna, respectively; Nakula observed that a man can attain fame by exercising discrimination, while for Sahadev Truth was akin to his mother. Draupadi rued that she was at fault.

Once they had bared their souls, the gooseberry miraculously affixed itself to the tree branch, proving God comes to the rescue of those who uphold the truth even in trying times.

WAR WITHIN: In a fragmented polity, every seat counts and every ally comes with a calculation

Seats & grades: The math behind Bihar alliances

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With the RJD officially releasing its list of candidates, the contours of the seat-sharing arrangement among all major constituents in Bihar have been drawn. Barring a few constituencies that may see a 'friendly contest', Lalu Yadav's party is set to contest the maximum number of seats in the November elections.

The brinkmanship that marred negotiations in the I.N.D.I.A bloc is symptomatic of electoral politics in a fragmented polity, where allies jostle and compete to maximise their numbers, within the alliance, and subsequently in the House. The more you contest, the more you are likely to win.

But that's easier said than done. A party's final tally in an election does not depend solely on the number of candidates who entered the fray under its symbol. What also matters is the 'grade' of seats allocated. Yes, like school grades, parties grade the seats based on the probability of a favourable outcome. An 'A' grade seat for the BJP could draw a 'C' grade in the RJD list, and vice versa. Everyone wants to contest as many winning seats as possible.

Still, the allocation of an 'A' category seat is no guarantee of victory. What matters is a favourable average of the variables at play — a sort of Cumulative Grade Point Average or CGPA, where the demography of a constituency, caste, support base among dominant communities, and a candidate's loyalty to the party come into play.

COALITION CALL

- Parties grade seats by winnability
- The goal is: contest more, win more
- CGPA-style calculus drives allocations
- 'Friendly contests' in at least nine constituencies
- In a coalition, smaller allies often tip the balance
- Present and future political challenges also taken into consideration
- BJP finds Paswan more flexible ally than Nitish

BIHAR VOTES

Present and future political challenges, too, are taken into consideration. Pappu Yadav, an independent MP from Purnia, has overtly and covertly been aligned with the Congress. Being a strong local Yadav satrap, Lalu's RJD has been averse to accommodating him in the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

In the NDA allies, Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) is a more conducive ally for the BJP to deal with than a strong Nitish Kumar. The BJP has no qualms about allocating 29 seats to Paswan's party while it ensured parity with the JD(U) in seat-sharing, though all these years, it has not balked at conceding the leadership position and chief ministership to Nitish.

Another critical consideration in seat allocation to minor partners is their ability to win. No one wants to waste seats. When parties complement one another, there are ways to overcome differences — like fielding an ally's strong candidate under your symbol. In 2024, the Congress won the symbolically significant Allahabad LS seat by fielding Samajwadi Party's Ujjwal Raman Singh.

In fact, the performance of smaller parties in a coalition at times is the difference between victory and defeat.

In Jharkhand, part of Bihar till 2000, the I.N.D.I.A bloc could win two consecutive elections because the Congress complemented the JMM by winning its share of urban seats, thereby substantially reducing the BJP's tally.

In 2020, Congress proved to be a drag on the I.N.D.I.A bloc. Of the 70 seats, the party could win only 19. As compared to others like CPI(ML), which won 12 out of 19, Congress' performance gave the NDA just enough edge to breach the tape by a slim margin.

It is not surprising that the RJD is reluctant to cut too much slack for the Congress. But Lalu also knows the perils of letting the Congress completely out of the alliance. He and Ram Vilas Paswan tried doing that in the 2009 LS polls and ended with just four seats.

He's opted for plan B: a friendly contest in a dozen seats. In a free-for-all in at least nine seats, "may the best candidate win" seems to be the motto as I.N.D.I.A partners face off.

In the NDA, the BJP has bet big on Chirag Paswan's party by giving it 29 seats, reducing allocation for the JD(U). The final tally hinges critically on the performance of Chirag's party.

WHEN NOTA TIPPED THE SCALE IN 2020

In 30 constituencies, the number of votes for None of the Above (NOTA) was greater than the margin between the winner and the runner-up.

Sunil Kumar
JD(U), Bhorey
Win Margin: **462**
NOTA: **8,010**
NOTA Margin **7,548**

Raj Kumar Singh
LJP, Matihani
Win Margin: **333**
NOTA: **6,733**
NOTA Margin **6,400**

Sumit Kumar Singh
Ind, Chakai
Win Margin: **581**
NOTA: **6,521**
NOTA Margin **5,940**

Damodar Rawat
JD(U), Jhajha
Win Margin: **1,679**
NOTA: **6,278**
NOTA Margin **4,599**

Sudarshan Kumar
JD(U), Barbigha
Win Margin: **113**
NOTA: **3,639**
NOTA Margin **3,526**

SOURCE: ECI

Don't vote for tainted candidates, even from NDA: BJP's RK Singh

PATNA, PTI: Former Union minister RK Singh of the BJP urged the people of Bihar to shun candidates with a criminal record, including those fielded by the NDA, one of them being Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary.

RK Singh

Singh said people should not vote for such candidates "even if they belong to your caste, and if none of those in the fray is without a taint, opt for NOTA".

Among the NDA candidates whom he mentioned by name were Choudhary (Tarapur) and gangster-turned-politician Anant Singh, the JD(U) candidate from Mokama.

Singh also named JD(U) candidates from Jagdishpur and Sandesh.

He also spelt out details of criminal cases of the aforementioned candidates.

Battle of bahubalis in Mokama

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

The Assembly elections in Bihar are a high-stakes battle for all players, and Mokama will witness one of the 'strongest' battles.

During the election season, voters discuss development, growth, education, jobs and healthcare, among other things. However, the debate in Mokama is which of the two bahubalis (strongmen) — Anant Singh or Surajbhan Singh — holds more clout, who possesses more arms and munitions.

While Anant Singh is the JDU candidate from Mokama, Surajbhan Singh has fielded his wife Veena Devi as an RJD candidate, as he has been debarred from contesting polls following a conviction in a murder case.

The five-term MLA from Mokama, Anant Singh, too, was in jail until recently after he was imprisoned following the recovery of an AK-47 from his house, which eventually led to his disqualification as MLA. In the by-election, his wife Neelam Devi contested as the RJD candidate and won, but later switched over to the JDU in 2024.

Recently, the Patna High Court ordered release of Anant Singh for lack of proof. Exonerated, he pledged his loyalty to Nitish, who, in turn, fielded him from Mokama.

Anant had won 4 times as a JDU candidate, but was denied a ticket in 2020. However, he contested as an Independent and won for a 5th time. To take him on, Tejashwi Yadav sought the help of Surajbhan Singh, who, like Anant, belongs to the Bhumihar community and was an MLA from here between 2000 and 2005.

Such was the clout of Surajbhan in Mokama, allegedly, no railway tender (from Gorakhpur in UP to Mokama in Bihar) was decided without his consent till two decades ago.

The 2000 win was his last. Surjabhan shifted loyalty and joined Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP). However, debarred from contesting the election, Surajbhan fielded his wife Veena Devi from Munger Lok Sabha seat in 2014, which she won.

Last week, Veena Devi, along with her husband resigned from the LJP and joined the RJD.

Mahagathbandhan selling election tickets, says BJP

NEW DELHI, DHNS: BJP leader Dilip Jaiswal on Monday accused Mahagathbandhan of 'selling tickets to candidates for money'. He also suggested that there's 'infighting' within the alliance.

"The people of Bihar are witnessing the infighting within the Mahagathbandhan and how tickets are being sold for money. They have not even managed to finalise seat-sharing yet. How will they run a government," Jaiswal said while addressing reporters in Patna.

The BJP leader's comments come amid ongoing talks among Mahagathbandhan constituents including the RJD, Congress, and Left parties over the distribution of seats.

Negotiations have reportedly been strained, with smaller allies demanding a larger share of constituencies and expressing dissatisfaction over the RJD's dominant role in the alliance.

Jaiswal said the disunity within the Opposition bloc reflected its inability to provide stable governance.

"They are busy fighting over seats while the NDA is united and focused on development. The people of Bihar have seen what happens when such opportunistic alliances come to power," he added.

Responding to the BJP's charges, RJD leaders have dismissed the allegations as 'baseless' and accused the ruling party of attempting to divert attention from issues such as unemployment and price rise.

"The BJP has no real issues to talk about, so it is spreading rumours about opposition," an RJD spokesperson said.

RJD candidate arrested after filing nomination in Sasaram

SASARAM/PATNA, PTI: RJD candidate Satendra Sah was arrested immediately after filing his nomination papers from Bihar's Sasaram assembly seat on Monday, officials said.

Officers of the police station concerned maintained that Sah was arrested by Jharkhand Police as a non-bailable warrant (NBW) was pending against him. His supporters were clueless about the developments.

"As Sah reached the office of the circle officer concerned to file his nomination papers from Sasaram seat, Jharkhand Police officers arrived there to execute a NBW which was pending against him," a senior officer of Rohtas district said on condition of anonymity.

"He was allowed to file his nomination papers... But soon after, he was arrested. We are not aware about the nature of the case in which the NBW was issued against him," he said, adding only Jharkhand Police could share further details.

This was the third such incident of candidates of the constituents of I.N.D.I.A bloc being held after filing their nomination papers.

Prior to this, CPI(ML) Liberation's candidates from Bhore and Darauli seats, Jitendra Paswan and Satyadeo Ram, respectively, were arrested after filing their nomination papers.

CPI(ML) Liberation has issued a statement condemning the arrests.

"We strongly condemn the politically motivated arrests of Comrade Jitendra Paswan and Comrade Satyadeo Ram... They were arrested right outside the nomination centres immediately after filing their papers. These arrests, under fabricated and baseless charges, clearly reveal the fear and panic among the NDA leaders," the party had said.

Poll diary

Actor Pawan Singh's wife files nomination

Jyoti Singh, estranged wife of Bhojpuri star Pawan Singh, filed her nomination as an Independent from Bihar's Karakat seat. Their marital discord became public after a police incident at Pawan's Lucknow flat. While Jyoti alleged harassment, Pawan denied the claims, hinting at political motives behind the controversy.

Bhojpuri star has assets worth Rs 24 cr

Bhojpuri star Khesari Lal Yadav, contesting from Bihar's Chapra seat as an RJD candidate, declared assets worth Rs 24.81 crore in his election affidavit. This includes luxury cars, gold, and real estate. The first-time candidate, who once sold litti-chokha, says his heart has always been with the RJD.

753 held, seizures total Rs 64.13 crore

Since the Bihar Assembly election schedule was announced on October 6, enforcement agencies have seized goods worth Rs 64.13 crore, including Rs 23.41 crore worth of liquor. Police arrested 753 people, executed 13,587 non-bailable warrants, and confiscated cash, drugs, and freebies, officials said on Monday.

Tej Pratap booked for MCC 'violation'

Tej Pratap Yadav, RJD leader Lalu Prasad's son, has been booked for violating the model code of conduct during his nomination for the Mahua Assembly seat in Bihar, reports PTI. A viral video showed Tej Pratap using an SUV with a police logo and beacon light, leading to a case being filed, police said.

Bengal turning into 'soft state', women unsafe: Governor Bose

KOLKATA, PTI: West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose expressed serious concern over the recent sexual assault of students and asserted that these incidents point to a "deepening law and order crisis" and an "atmosphere of fear that is rendering the state increasingly unsafe for women".

C V Ananda Bose

In an interview with PTI, Bose also claimed that Bengal was "consistently showing the symptoms of a soft state" and cautioned that unless corrective measures are taken, the "prevailing fear psychosis will intensify, not just among women, but across society".

According to him, a "soft state" is a state "where the laws exist, but enforcement is weak".

"This does not augur well for any civil society, especially in a democracy... In view of the series of ghastly incidents taking place one after another, anyone would come to the conclusion that West Bengal is not a safe place for women," Bose said.

His comment comes after a student in Durgapur was allegedly gang-raped on October 10.

Rift in Kerala LDF after U-turn over PM SHRI

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

SUNNY JOSEPH
KPCC chief

"The Marxist party's long-standing covert relationship has now come out in the open now. It was part of this secret understanding that the general education minister has announced the state's decision to join the PM SHRI without even discussing in the Cabinet.

Resentment is brewing in the ruling CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala over the state's decision to agree to the Pradha Mathri School for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme, deviating from its earlier political stand to object to it.

The CPI — the second-largest constituent of the LDF — and its student and youth outfits are openly opposing the decision of the state's Education Department, a portfolio held by the CPM.

Meanwhile, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) in the Opposition is alleging that the deviation was yet another instance of the CPM-BJP nexus as local-body and Assembly polls were approaching in the state.

State Education Minister V Sivankutty used to Central assistance of around Rs 1,500 crore to justify the change in the stand.

Other CPM leaders backed the justification, even as critics cited the neighbouring Tamil Nadu government's stand of fighting legally.

The LDF till recently objected to PM SHRI claiming that it would lead to implementation of the National Education Policy, and thereby pave the way for the BJP and the RSS to impose their vested interests in the state's education sector.

CPI state secretary Benoy Viswam and Revenue Minister and CPI leader K Rajan openly expressed their displeasure. They pointed out that the decision was taken without discussion in the Cabinet or the LDF.

The CPI's mouthpiece "Janayugam" also strongly criticised the decision. The All India Youth Federation, the youth wing of the CPI, also opposed the decision openly.

Meanwhile, Sivankutty countered that various other departments — including agriculture, which is a portfolio held by the CPI — had conceded to similar conditions of the Central government for accepting funds.

He also pointed out the many welfare schemes for students as well as the payment of salary to teachers under the Samagra Shiksha-Kerala quality improvement pogramme were hit due to paucity of funds.

Nuapada bypoll: Litmus test for parties

BJD, Congress eye comeback; BJP bets on Dholakia's son

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

BJD's Snehangini Chhuria after filing the nomination papers for the bypoll to the Nuapada Assembly seat in Odisha.

The bypoll to the Nuapada Assembly constituency in Odisha will be a litmus test for the ruling BJP and the Opposition BJD and Congress, as all three parties look to consolidate their position in the eastern state.

Necessitated by the death of BJD MLA Rajesh Dholakia in September this year, the bypoll will show whether the BJP, which came to power by defeating the ageing Naveen Patnaik-led party, can continue its dominance. Meanwhile, the BJD and Congress will be fighting to assert their relevance in the Opposition space.

The BJP has fielded late Dholakia's son, Jay (32), in Nuapada — a silent coup that disrupted the BJD's plans in a seat where the saffron party had finished third in 2024, even as it witnessed an upswing across the state. Last time, BJP's Abhinandan Panda polled 44,814 votes while Dholakia secured 61,822.

With the key leader's family switching sides, the BJD has turned to its women's wing president, Snehangini Chhuria — a former minister and two-time MLA. The Congress has fielded Ghasiram Majhi, an independent who came second in the 2024 polls, as its candidate.

The BJP hopes that Jay, leveraging his late father's goodwill and personal connections, will help the party retain the seat and silence the Opposition, which has been targeting the Mohan Majhi-led government over law and order and other issues. The senior Dholakia had won Nuapada as an independent in 2004 and as a BJD candidate in 2009, 2019, and 2024, while he lost in 2014.

The BJD's bet on Chhuria is that, as a well-known Dalit woman leader, she could neutralise any impact of Dholakia's defection. Her campaign focuses on the BJD government's record of development in the constituency.

The Congress, meanwhile, has brought Majhi back into the party fold, hoping to capitalise on the BJD-BJP contest. Majhi, who had garnered 50,941 votes as an independent in 2024 and came second behind Dholakia by 10,879 votes, had previously received the backing of the Adivasi Mahasabha. However, party sources said that as an official Congress nominee this time, he may not enjoy same support.

Both Congress and BJD have centred their campaigns around what they call 16 months of BJP "misgovernance." A senior BJD leader claimed that Dholakia family's defection would have little impact, noting that no major block or district leader or Booth Level Agent had joined BJP.

FINAL BOW

Five decades, 350 films: Asrani, iconic 'Sholay' jailer, dies at 84

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Asrani in 'Sholay'

Veteran actor Govardhan Asrani, fondly known as Asrani, who immortalised the role of the eccentric jailor in 'Sholay', passed away in Mumbai on Monday at the age of 84. He had been battling age-related health issues.

In a career spanning five decades, Asrani appeared in over 350 films, playing lead, character, comic and supporting roles. He collaborated with some of the biggest actors, directors and producers of his era.

His impeccable comic timing, screen presence and dialogue delivery made the line "Hum angrezon ke zamane ke jailer hain" unforgettable. Even 50 years after 'Sholay', it continues to resonate with film-loving audiences.

"Asrani Ji passed away at the Arogya Nidhi Hospital in Juhu. His last rites were performed at Shastri Nagar in Santacruz in the presence of family members and close friends," his manager Babubhai Thiba said.

Born on January 1, 1941, into a Sindhi-Hindu family in Jaipur, Asrani completed his matriculation from St Xavier's School and graduated from Rajasthan College.

He began his career as a voice artist with All India Radio. From 1960 to 1962, he trained in acting under Sahitya Kalbhai Thakkar. In 1964, he joined the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune, graduating in 1966.

Asrani made his Hindi film debut in 1967 with 'Hare Kaanch Ki Choodiyan'. That same year, he also ventured into Gujarati cinema.

His breakthrough came with Hrishikesh Mukherjee's 'Satyakam'. Some of his most memorable performances were in 'Guddi', 'Mere Apne', 'Koshish', 'Bawarchi', 'Parichay', 'Abhiman', 'Chupke Chupke' and 'Choti Si Baat'.

In later years, Asrani continued to charm audiences with roles in films such as 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa', 'Dhamaal', 'Bunty Aur Babli 2', 'Rajkumar', 'All The Best' and 'Welcome'.

A gifted narrator with an elephantine memory, he would often leave audiences in splits with his anecdotes about the who's who of Indian cinema.

UP CM, Akhilesh trade barbs over Deepotsav

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A record of sorts was created in Ayodhya at "Deepotsav" (lamp festival) with the lighting of 26 lakh earthen lamps. However, the celebration soon turned political after Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav termed the event "fazul kharchi" (wasteful spending), drawing a sharp response from Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who called him "Ramdrohi" (anti-Ram).

The SP chief had said that the annual "Deepotsav" at Ayodhya was "wasteful expenditure".

"Why spend so much money on lamps and candles every year?... But what else can we expect from this government?" Akhilesh said.

Akhilesh's remarks drew a sharp response from Adityanath and other BJP leaders. "How can Ramdrohis like deepotsav?... Such people spent money on the Saifai festival and the construction of boundaries around cemeteries," said the Chief Minister.

Another BJP leader, Sanjay Rai, said Akhilesh had problems with earthen lamps, which provided employment to potters, but he liked Christmas.

"The people of the state will teach such anti-Hindu people a lesson," he said.

Adityanath had taken part in "Deepotsav" at Ayodhya on Sunday. He visited Ayodhya again on Monday and met seers and saints there.

Speaking on the occasion, Adityanath said Ayodhya was ruined by foreign invaders and neglected by Congress governments in the past.

European Council backs new strategic agenda to strengthen ties with India

Efforts on to conclude free trade agreement by the end of the year

LONDON, PTI

The European Council on Monday approved conclusions on a 'New Strategic EU-India Agenda' announced earlier by the European Commission, welcoming the 'strong impetus' it provides to relations between the European Union and India.

The Belgium-based council, responsible for the general political direction and priorities of the 27-member economic bloc, highlighted efforts on both sides to conclude an India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) by the end of the year.

Its conclusions this week endorse the Joint Communication on the new agenda and its objective of deepening EU-India ties, including prosperity and sustainability, technology and innovation, security and defence, and connectivity and global issues.

TRADE TALKS

- Council welcomes efforts to conclude mutually beneficial free trade agreement
- Notes collaboration on security and defence matters are importance.
- The EU to continue to engage with India on 'Russia's war against Ukraine'

"The council welcomes in particular efforts to conclude a balanced, ambitious, mutually beneficial and economically meaningful free trade agreement, which the European Commission and the Indian government aim to finalise by the end of the year," the council said in a statement.

"Such agreement must include enhanced market access, removal of trade barriers, and provisions on sustainable development," it said.

The European Council noted that closer collaboration between the EU and India were of particular importance against the backdrop of an increasingly complex geopolitical outlook.

The European Council said the EU will continue to engage with India on all aspects of "Russia's war".

It also emphasised the joint capacity and responsibility of the EU and India to safeguard multilateralism and the rules-based international order with the UN Charter at its core, as well as the multilateral trading system, in particular the WTO.

The council called on the European Commission to take forward the articulation and implementation of this 'New Strategic EU-India Agenda' on the basis of the priorities set out in the Joint Communication last month.

Kerala doctor blames waste dumping for amoebic brain fever

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: As the number of amoebic meningoencephalitis cases keeps going up in Kerala, a known doctor has stated that garbage dumping is the root cause for the rise in such rare and infectious diseases in the state.

So far 129 amoebic meningoencephalitis cases have been reported in Kerala this year, and the total deaths have reached 26.

Dr Haris Chirackal, Head of the Urology Department at Thiruvananthapuram Medical College, who was in the news recently for openly lamenting over the lapses in the state health infrastructure, made the observation in a social media post.

"Amoebic meningoencephalitis is not being reported in Tamil Nadu or Karnataka. There was no need for any big research to find the reason why such rare diseases are being increasingly reported in Kerala. Garbage dumping is the issue. The state is paying the cost for dumping slaughter waste, hotel waste, and septic waste in waterbodies. It is the responsibility of the society to address these issues. There is no point in attacking the doctor for it," Dr Chirackal said in a social media post.

The post was made in the backdrop of the father of a nine-year-old girl, who reportedly died owing to amoebic meningoencephalitis, attacking a doctor at Thamaraserry in Kozhikode with a machete.

T'gana: Prime accused in cop's murder killed in encounter

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The prime accused in the Nizamabad police constable murder case, Shaik Riyaz, was shot dead during a police encounter on Monday.

The 24-year-old history-sheeter was tracked to the Sarangapur forest area after a scuffle with a local resident, Asif. Both were admitted to separate hospitals after the incident.

While undergoing treatment at the Government General Hospital (GGH) in Nizamabad, Riyaz snatched the weapon of an Armed Reserve constable. In the ensuing scuffle, the constable suffered injuries. The police retaliated, which resulted in Riyaz's death, said Telangana DGP B Shivadhar Reddy.

"Despite repeated warnings, he snatched a gun from an officer. He was killed while attempting to flee," the DGP said.

He added that Asif, who assisted police in tracing Riyaz, is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Hyderabad. The incident created panic among patients and staff at the GGH.

On Friday night, Constable E Pramod (42) of the Nizamabad CCS was stabbed to death while taking Riyaz — detained for vehicle theft — to the police station on a motorcycle.

DGP B Shivadhar Reddy said Empalli Pramod Kumar was a brave officer who sacrificed his life in the line of duty.

He announced a comprehensive support package for Pramod's family, including an ex gratia payment of Rs 1 crore and other welfare measures.

"The Telangana Police Department stands firmly with its officers and their families, especially in times of loss. We salute constable Pramod Kumar for his courage and dedication and will ensure that justice is served," said the DGP.

Riyaz had 61 cases registered against him.

He initially worked as an auto driver, but later turned to crime. Postmortem procedures are underway and further details will be shared later, said the police.

Environmentalists slam move to cut CRZ buffer to 200 metres

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
NAVI MUMBAI, DHNS

Environmental groups have sounded the alarm over a proposal by a government panel to reduce the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) buffer from 500 metres to 200 metres from the High Tide Line (HTL), calling it a "disastrous and short-sighted" move that would endanger India's already fragile shorelines.

In an appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, city-based advocacy groups NatConnect Foundation and Sagar Shakti urged the Centre to reject the recommendation of a committee headed by NITI Aayog member Rajiv Gauba. The panel reportedly described the existing 500-metre CRZ restriction as "overly restrictive" and detrimental to coastal tourism, fishing enterprises.

"At a time when the world is bracing for rising sea levels, India's planners seem to be suggesting the exact opposite — moving closer to the sea instead of staying away," said B N Kumar, Director of the NatConnect Foundation.

Kumar cited the India Development Report, which identified 113 coastal cities across nine states as being at risk of submergence by 2050 due to rising sea levels. "Even with the current CRZ norms already diluted to allow development up to 100 metres from creeks, estuaries, and backwaters, further relaxation is unimaginable," he warned.

The green activists said that NASA satellite data has recorded a global sea-level rise of 3.6 inches since 1993. "Local impacts may be even more severe due to land subsidence and changing ocean currents," the space agency has reported.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

BOY, SOMETIMES I JUST LOVE A MONDAY
IT'S A CHANCE TO START A NEW WEEK WITH A FRESH START, AND THE WHOLE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER
AT LEAST UNTIL A CRAB COMES ALONG
7-14

Hagar The Horrible

I'M GOING FOR A WALK AROUND THE BLOCK!
NONSENSE! YOU'RE GOING TO THE TAVERN!
I DON'T LIKE TO MAKE A LIAR OUT OF ANYONE!
TAVERN
HA HA HA HA

Beetle Bailey

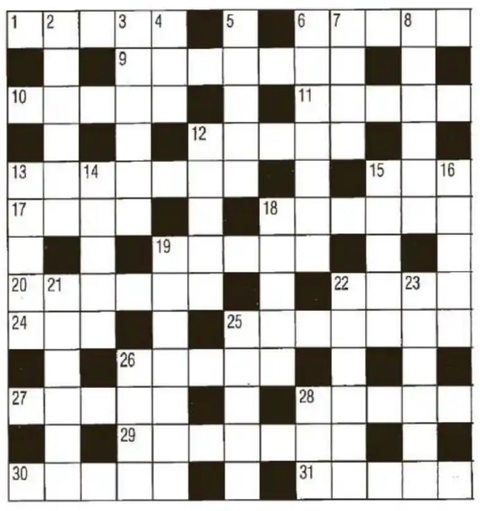
SARGE WANTED TO SEE ME?
HE HAD TO LEAVE, BUT HE LEFT YOU A NOTE.
WOW! SARGE'S CURSIVE IS REALLY CURSE-IVE!
Beetle: Get your @#&% act together!
7/1
GREG + MORT WALKER

Peanuts

HOW DID I EVER END UP AS A PITCHER'S MOUND FOR A STUPID KIDS' TEAM?
"GO INTO SPORTS," MY FATHER SAID.. "THAT'S WHERE THE MONEY IS!"
WHY COULDN'T I HAVE BEEN A GOLF GREEN AT PEBBLE BEACH OR A GRASS COURT AT WIMBLEDON? STILL, I GUESS IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE...
I COULD HAVE BEEN THE PLEXIGLASS BEHIND A HOCKEY NET!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12271



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Great novelist said to be what he was (5)
6 He makes many wicked (5)
9 Met conditions in the war out East, possibly (7)
10 In which the Romans had been lying about starting trouble (5)
11 Pronounces with a bend in one's lips? (5)
12 In a raincoat, Joe has charm (5)
13 Work faster to make fishing results better? (5,2)
15 A dance one saw as a puzzle? (3)
17 State of an upper-class bad hat (4)
18 Ron's in the chair (6)
19 A clever sting (5)
20 Crusoe's favourite part of the week (6)
22 Old tribesman indeed depicted (4)
24 Took the chair after "20 Across" (3)
25 Winter sportsmen can go to one's head (7)
26 Drink a pious person under the table! (5)
27 She gives her dad the pip (5)
28 To breathe a little is quite usual! (5)
29 Can help one's headache when pickled in Paris (7)
30 Northeast part of Athens, mainly inhabited, by the Welsh (5)
31 Distribute carelessly, it's true (5)

DOWN
2 Hardly the latest style of tax on a new car (6)
3 Move smartly in a tango with a charmer (6)
4 Late night hour? (3)
5 Bind up parts (5)
6 Gild the plastic with great pleasure! (7)
7 Man of enviable riches (4)
8 Suffering, dad and I go in the pub (2,4)
12 A well preserved woman? (5)
13 Blows to handicap the would-be escaper? (5)
14 A bad act, it follows without saying (5)
15 Foster as an actress (5)
16 For small men, information on closing accounts (5)
18 Something like a rainbow? (5)
19 Near Plymouth, it's the place to season timber (7)
21 Pillage can cause pain when there are soldiers about (6)
22 One needs to set out to be flexible (6)
23 What ships can do with missiles (6)
25 Famous name for a dog, that is (5)
26 Spoke crisply in the Paris patois (4)
28 The part of Mephistopheles is not for her! (3)

EASY

ACROSS
1 Our planet (5)
6 Restrict (5)
9 Sailors' cry (5-2)
10 Sacred book of Islam (5)
11 Not late (5)
12 Viper (5)
13 Weariness (7)
15 Permit (3)
17 Stretches (4)
18 Military greeting (6)
19 Nip (5)
20 Slender (6)
22 Encounter (4)
24 Small bit (3)
25 Destructive insects (7)
26 Pry (5)
27 Group of nine (5)
28 Period of darkness (5)
29 Reasons (7)
30 Jeans fabric (5)
31 Kitchen utensil (5)

DOWN
2 Waterproof jacket (6)
3 To be precise (4,2)
4 Farmyard bird (3)
5 Escape (5)
6 Spotted feline (7)
7 Lion's cry (4)
8 Hammer (6)
12 Inspection of accounts (5)
13 Banquet (5)
14 Lukewarm (5)
15 Decoys (5)
16 Canvas shelters (5)
18 Exclusive story (5)
19 Spectre (7)
21 City in Pakistan (6)
22 Stubborn (6)
23 Engraves (6)
25 Reason (5)
26 Type of house (4)
28 Novel (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12270

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Sto-Op. 8, Pay up 10, Navel 11, Tom 12, Never 13, Doubter 15, WI-ser 18, Law 19, C-astle 21, Next day 22, Wood 23, Nice 24, S-win-don 26, Shaken 29, Eat 31, Si-Des 32, Orderly 34, Bar-Ry. 35, Pie 36, G-L-eam 37, Mad-AM 38, Bella.
DOWN: 1, Bato-N 2, Rumbled 4, Tier 5, One way 6, Par-is 7, Level 9, Y-ou 12, New town 14, TA-X 16, Stein 17, R-Eve-L 19, C-Anne-ry 20, SW-is-s 21, Nomad (rev.) 23, Note-pad 24, Se-Sam-e 25, Dad 27, Hill's 28, Keba-b 30, Clean 32, O-R-Al 33, Rid.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Stuns 8, Fatal 10, Ingot 11, Nor 12, Prime 13, Footman 15, Beams 18, Nut 19, Burlap 21, Tedious 22, Hair 23, Rude 24, Anagram 26, Adroit 29, Lid 31, Prank 32, Capital 34, Eider 35, Cup 36, Bland 37, Cabin 38, Dolls.
DOWN: 1, Manor 2, Partner 4, Turn 5, Nimbus 6, Sneer 7, Comma 9, Too 12, Patient 14, Mud 16, Album 17, Spiel 19, Burglar 20, Cheap 21, Tiara 23, Radical 24, Aikido 25, Rip 27, Drill 28, On end 30, Sapid 32, Cell 33, Tub.

◆SU-DO-KU-6731◆

	6		7	1	4			2
	5							4
				6		3		7
			4			8	3	
			5		6			
	3	2			9			
3		7		5				
2							5	
5			9	7	3		2	

very hard

1	7	5	3	6	8	2	9	4
9	4	6	1	2	7	5	8	3
3	2	8	4	5	9	1	6	7
4	6	3	5	9	2	7	1	8
2	8	7	6	1	3	9	4	5
5	1	9	7	8	4	3	2	6
8	5	2	9	3	6	4	7	1
7	9	1	8	4	5	6	3	2
6	3	4	2	7	1	8	5	9

SOLUTION TO 6730

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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A1 N1 P3 E1 E1 N1 T1	Double Word Score	RACK 1
A1 M3 G2 A1 N1 M3 U1		RACK 2
T1 G2 S1 H4 N1 I1 I1	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
Y4 B3 A1 R1 I1 R1 L1	3rd Letter Double	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

H4 U1 S1 B3 A1 N1 D2	RACK 1 =	63
D2 U1 R1 I1 N1 G2	RACK 2 =	24
S1 T1 A1 T1 O1 R1 S1	RACK 3 =	57
B3 E1 N1 Z10 I1 N1 E1	RACK 4 =	88
PAR SCORE 150-160	JUDD'S TOTAL	232

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

URRNE

LIDLR

TCALAU

VSEWER

I don't have the heart to replace this couch, but it looks awful.
I don't think he'd let us.
4/12
THE JACK RUSSELL LOVED THE SOFA, WHICH WAS IN BAD SHAPE DUE TO THE ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play_Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: UNDUE RUMOR GAMBIT DECEIT
Answer: The grumpy guy who found fault with every type of cheese was a — "CURD-MUDGEON"

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HITORI-3185

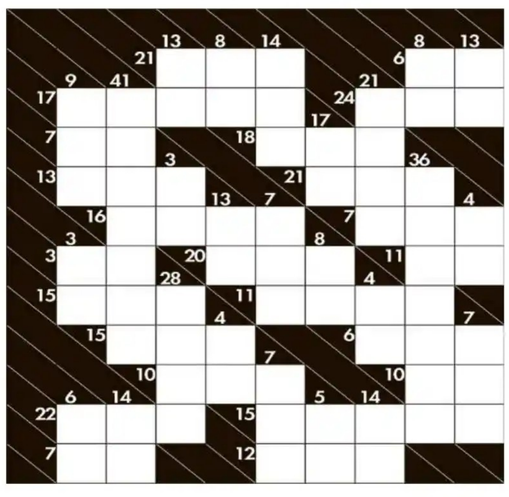
8	6	1	5	5	5	7	5
4	5	3	7	4	6	2	8
2	7	2	5	8	8	5	4
6	5	7	1	3	3	4	5
2	4	5	8	6	1	6	7
5	3	6	5	8	4	5	2
4	1	2	6	6	2	8	5
5	8	2	4	7	2	1	6

SOLUTION TO 3184

8	■	7	2	■	4	■	6
7	8	■	6	1	5	4	2
■	7	1	■	3	8	5	■
4	5	8	7	6	■	2	3
3	■	6	5	4	2	■	1
2	1	5	■	8	■	7	■
■	3	2	1	■	7	6	8
5	6	■	8	2	3	1	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3185



SOLUTION TO 3184

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3712

■			6					8
	■						2	
2		■				■	6	
			3	8	■			
		2		■				7
			■		■		3	
		■		1		■		3
6	■	4			8		9	
9	5					4		1

SOLUTION TO 3711

3	1	7	8	5	2	9	6	4
5	2	6	4	3	9	8	1	7
4	8	9	7	1	6	5	2	3
9	6	3	1	8	7	2	4	5
8	4	2	5	6	3	1	7	9
1	7	5	9	2	4	3	8	6
6	5	8	3	4	1	7	9	2
7	3	4	2	9	8	6	5	1
2	9	1	6	7	5	4	3	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

US, Australia sign critical minerals agreement

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: President Donald Trump and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese signed a rare earths and critical minerals agreement on Monday aimed at ensuring a steady supply of the materials at a time when China is trying to tighten control over global supply.

As they met at the White House for their first summit, Trump said the deal had been negotiated over four or five months. Albanese described it as an $8.5 billion pipeline "that we have ready to go."

The two leaders said part of the agreement had to do with processing of the minerals. Albanese said both countries will contribute $1 billion over the next six months for joint projects.

The United States has been looking for access to rare earths and critical minerals around the world as China tightens control over global supply. China has the world's largest rare earths reserves, according to US Geological Survey data, but Australia also has significant reserves.

Talks with Trump were 'positive', insists Zelenskyy

Ukraine leader touts multi-year deal for crucial air defences

KYIV, REUTERS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described his meeting last week with US President Donald Trump as a success that yielded progress on securing new air defence systems — a contrast to reports that Trump had berated him with obscenities in the White House.

In comments made to the media on Sunday, initially off the record but authorised for publication on Monday, the Ukrainian leader characterised Trump's message at the meeting — which ended with a call for a ceasefire with forces in place — as "positive".

As a result of Zelenskyy's visit to Washington, Ukraine was now preparing a contract to purchase 25 Patriot air defence systems, a major boost to its protection against Russian missile attacks, he said.

US President Donald Trump with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Washington DC. AFP

Zelenskyy spoke before Reuters and other news organisations reported that Trump had pressed him to give up territory during their meeting, which sources described as more tense than initially disclosed.

"After many rounds of discussion lasting more than two hours with (Trump) and his team, his message, in my view, is positive: that we stand where we stand on the front line," Zelenskyy said.

Ukraine and its allies have long called for an immediate ceasefire with troops remaining in place, while Moscow has demanded that Ukraine cede further territory before halting fighting.

Zelenskyy did not specify how close Ukraine was to finalising the contract for the 25 Patriot systems, but said much of his visit had been devoted to the issue, including direct discussions with Trump. He did not, however, achieve his stated goal of persuading Washington to supply Tomahawk cruise missiles for long-range strikes inside Russia.

Zelenskyy said he believed Trump was reluctant to take steps that might anger Vladimir Putin ahead of a planned meeting with the Russian president at a summit.

Ready to join Putin, Trump at Budapest meet: Ukraine prez

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said he would be ready to join Russian President Vladimir Putin and US counterpart Donald Trump at their summit in Hungary if he is invited, AFP reports from Kyiv. "If I am invited to Budapest — if it is an invitation in a format where we meet as three or, as it's called, shuttle diplomacy... we will agree," Zelenskyy told reporters on Monday.

Khamenei rejects US Prez's offer of renewed talks

DUBAI, REUTERS: Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Monday rejected an offer of renewed talks from US President Donald Trump and dismissed his claim that the United States had destroyed Iran's nuclear capabilities.

Tehran and Washington had engaged in five rounds of indirect nuclear negotiations that ended with the 12-day air war in June, during which Israel and the US bombed Iranian nuclear sites. "Trump says he is a dealmaker, but if a deal is accompanied by coercion and its outcome is predetermined, it is not a deal but rather an imposition and bullying," Khamenei said, according to state media.

Last week, Trump told the Israeli parliament that it would be "great" if Washington could negotiate a "peace deal" with Tehran, following the start of a ceasefire in Gaza between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

"The US president proudly says they bombed and destroyed Iran's nuclear industry. Very well, keep dreaming!" Khamenei added.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

An ACT Airlines Boeing 747-400 cargo aircraft is seen in the water after veering off the runway of Hong Kong's international airport on Monday. AFP

Cargo plane skids off Hong Kong airport runway into sea; 2 dead

▶ A cargo aircraft skidded off a Hong Kong runway into the sea when landing early Monday, killing two people, AP/PTI reports from Hong Kong.

The Boeing 747, flown by Turkey-based ACT Airlines, was landing at Hong Kong International Airport around 3.50 am on arrival from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, authorities said. The airline had leased the aircraft from Emirates, a long-haul carrier based in Dubai. Four crew members on the plane were rescued and taken to a hospital. Initial reports from police said two people in an airport ground vehicle were killed.

Emirates said the Boeing 747 freighter flying as EK9788 was wet leased and operated by ACT Airlines. In wet leases, the company supplying the plane also provides the crew, maintenance and insurance. Emirates said there was no cargo on board. Local Hong Kong broadcasters showed the aircraft partially submerged just off the edge of the airport's sea wall. The aircraft's front half and cockpit were visible above water but the tail end appearing to have broken off. The crash occurred on the north runway of Hong Kong's airport, one of Asia's busiest.

China begins key CCP meet

▶ China's ruling Communist Party on Monday commences a key meeting to finalise a new five-year plan amid concerns over an economic slowdown driven by US trade tensions and a sweeping purge at the top of the military, PTI reports from Beijing.

The Communist Party of China, headed by President Xi Jinping, began the three-day meeting of the plenary session, considered to be the most important in the current context of growing strategic competition with the US. According to the data released on Monday, China's economy grew at 4.8%, the slowest pace this year compared to the previous quarters. The slowdown of the world's second-largest economy was attributed to its growing trade conflict over the tariff war initiated by US President Donald Trump.

Colombia slams US 'invasion' threat, recalls envoy

BOGOTÁ, AFP

Colombia on Monday recalled its ambassador to the United States as a public feud between the two nations' leaders intensified, following President Donald Trump's decision to revoke aid and threaten punishing tariffs.

On Sunday, Trump vowed to end all aid to the South American nation – historically a close US partner but also the world's leading cocaine producer – berating his leftist counterpart, Gustavo Petro, as an "illegal drug leader." He said he would announce new tariffs on Monday targeting Colombia and threatened unspecified action to "close up" drug cultivation in the country if Petro failed to act.

Colombia's foreign ministry said Ambassador Daniel García Peña had returned from Washington to Bogotá for consultations, while Interior Minister Armando Benedetti described Trump's remarks about forcibly ending drug cultivation as a "threat of invasion or military action against Colombia." Petro and Trump have clashed repeatedly since the US leader's return to power in January, but their public confrontation has grown sharper in recent weeks amid Washington's deadly anti-drug campaign in the Caribbean.

Since August, US warships have been deployed off the South American coast and have attacked at least six boats allegedly transporting narcotics destined for the United States.

At least 27 people have been killed so far, according to Trump's administration, which has provided no detailed evidence to support its claims. Experts warn such summary killings are illegal, even when targeting confirmed traffickers.

While the campaign initially focused on drug routes from Venezuela, attention has recently shifted to Colombia.

On Sunday, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said three people were killed aboard a suspected drug-running vessel linked to Colombia's National Liberation Army.

23 Indians rescued from burning LPG tanker off Yemen coast

DJIBOUTI CITY, PTI: 23 Indian crew members onboard MV Falcon, which caught fire and was adrift off the Yemen following an explosion, have been rescued and safely handed over to the Djiboutian Coast Guard.

The Cameroon-flagged MV Falcon, which was sailing southeast of the port of Aden, Yemen, with destination Djibouti, caught fire after an explosion onboard on Saturday. The vessel was fully loaded with liquefied petroleum gas.

Upon receipt of an urgent distress request from the vessel's master, UNAVFOR ASPIDES, a purely defensive operation that protects civilian ships and crews navigating the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, initiated a search operation.

"MV MEDA successfully rescued 24 crewmembers of MV FALCON (1 Ukrainian and 23 Indians)," a statement released by ASPIDES said. The MV Falcon was escorted to the Port of Djibouti, where the rescued seafarers were safely handed over to the Djiboutian Coast Guard.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Tiruppur knitwear hub teetering towards layoffs

Cash flow has dried up, fresh orders have stopped from the US

E.T.B. SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Nearly two months after the US imposed 50% tariffs on Indian imports, the knitwear hub of Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu is struggling, as goods worth between Rs 1,500 crore and Rs 2,000 crore remain stuck in factories, ports, and warehouses.

Cash flow has dried up, fresh orders from American buyers have stopped, and many factories, especially those in the MSME category, fear they might have to scale down production, which could result in layoffs if the situation does not improve in the next 2-3 months.

Exporters who deal exclusively with the US market are the worst-affected, with buyers seeking steep discounts of 20-25% for finished goods.

While financially sound companies have been able to negotiate and bear the losses to an extent, those in the MSME sector continue to suffer, as agreeing to such high discounts would only worsen their losses. The US accounts for 30% of knitwear exports from Tiruppur.

Though some companies have already slowed production leading to layoffs at a small scale, but the perennial labour shortage in the knitwear hub has helped them find work at other factories that are running at full or near-full capacity. However, the situation may not be the same when lakhs of migrant labourers return from their holidays after the festival season and Bihar elections, as companies might not be able to provide jobs for them.

"When the tariffs were announced, exporters here were hopeful that the situation would ease in two months. However, we are in a crisis. Goods worth between Rs 1,500 crore and Rs 2,000 crore are stuck at ports, factories, and warehouses due to the tariffs imposed by the US," K M Subramanian, President of the Tiruppur Exporters Association (TEA), told *DH*.

He said that since there has been no inflow of orders from the US after the high tariffs were imposed, companies might be forced to slow down production in December or January 2026 if both the Indian and US governments don't arrive at a solution. "Tiruppur has a perennial shortage of about 1.5 lakh labourers, and many of those who have been relieved by some factories have found jobs in other units. For now, the layoffs are not significant. But three months down the line, the crisis might get worse if the higher tariffs persist," he added.

At $33.8 bn, Bengaluru leads in funding of e-commerce entities

This was primarily driven by Flipkart & Ola

BENGALURU, DHNS

When it comes to top funded cities in the country's B2C ecommerce space, Bengaluru leads with $33.8 billion funding. Driven primarily by Flipkart ($12.1 billion) and Ola ($3.8 billion), among others, in the last 10 years, the city has attracted total funding of $33.8 billion, followed by Delhi NCR with $16.7 billion (led by OYO $3.5 billion and Snapdeal $1.8 billion), and Mumbai Metropolitan Region with $3.9 billion.

According to market intelligence platform Tracxn's 'B2C Ecommerce Report', which analyses funding trends cross companies, Delhi NCR led the country's B2C ecommerce funding in terms of deal value in 2025 (till October 10), as it secured $588 million, driven primarily by Spinny's $171 million funding (across two Series F rounds).

This is followed by Bengaluru with $425 million funding, driven by GIVA's $68 million in Series C (across two rounds).

Ecommerce space is experiencing rapid growth, driven by several key factors including UPI and smartphone adoption.

"Digital payment systems are rapidly gaining traction, with the UPI processing transactions worth Rs 24.9 lakh crore in September 2025. The Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) market is projected to grow significantly, reaching $44.9 billion by 2033. Recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms have further stimulated consumer spending, with festive e-commerce sales increasing by 23–25% year-on-year (YoY) on the first two days, once it became effective," the report highlighted.

Rural areas are also driving this growth, with rural e-commerce expected to account for a significant share of demand originating from tier-2 to tier-4 towns and villages by 2026.

"These developments collectively underscore a transformative phase in India's e-commerce sector, making it an exciting and fertile ground to explore the country's dynamic B2C startup ecosystem," the report said.

Earnings power stocks to 4th day of gains ahead of holidays

REUTERS: Equities rose for a fourth consecutive session on Monday, ahead of a two-day holiday, due to better-than-expected earnings from banks and index heavyweight Reliance. The Nifty 50 and the BSE Sensex increased about 0.5% each to one-year-highs of 25,843.15 and 84,363.37, respectively. Their 2.8% gain over four sessions has left them less than 2% shy of their lifetime highs hit in September 2024.

The flurry of earnings over the weekend ensured trading volumes were normal ahead of the market holiday on Tuesday and Wednesday for Diwali, an analyst and a trader said.

Twelve of the 16 major sectors logged gains. The broader small-caps and mid-caps rose about 0.5% and 0.8%, respectively.

Rupee gains ground with RBI help

MUMBAI, REUTERS: The rupee trimmed most of its intraday gains but still ended higher on Monday, with traders citing likely intervention by the Reserve Bank of India through state-run banks to support the currency near the 88/dollar level.

The currency opened marginally higher at 87.9350 to the US dollar, up from Friday's 87.9750. It advanced in early trade to touch the day's high of 87.7475 before settling at 87.9275.

Maruti Suzuki leads Dhanteras sales; delivers 51,000 cars

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Car makers have recorded a 25-30% increase in car deliveries on Dhanteras compared to last year. The market leader Maruti Suzuki has delivered 51,000 cars during the first day of the Diwali festival season this year, which is about 25% more than the last year.

This year, *Dhanteras* was celebrated on both Saturday and Sunday. It was Maruti's highest-ever delivery of cars on the opening day of Diwali festival. It delivered around 41,000 cars on Saturday and another 10,000 cars on Sunday. It kept its showrooms open till late evening on Sunday to facilitate deliveries to its customers. In 2024, Maruti had sold 41,000 cars on the day of *Dhanteras*.

"This time *Dhanteras* is spread over two days. Because of the GST 2.0, many customers have come enthusiastically to buy vehicles. The traction is very good. We have received 14,000 bookings everyday since we announced new reduced rates after the GST cuts. We have received 4.5 lakh bookings and of this 1 lakh bookings are for small cars," Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki, said.

The retail sales have been 3.25 lakh. With this, Maruti has broken all records with a growth of more than 50% over similar periods last year. The manufacturing facilities worked extra time on Saturday and Sunday to meet customer demand as the company has been facing shortage of vehicles across models, Banerjee said.

Tata Motors said its growth during Dhanteras is about 30% over that of last year. It delivered around 25,000 vehicles on Saturday. "This year, *Dhanteras* and *Diwali* deliveries are spread over two - three days in line with the auspicious mahurats. Overall demand has been robust, and the GST 2.0 reform has further provided positive momentum," said Amit Kamat, Chief Commercial Officer, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd.

Hyundai Motors said it delivered around 14,000 units on *Dhanteras*, which is about 20% higher than last year.

"This year, *Dhanteras* deliveries are spread across multiple days because of it being a Saturday. We are witnessing strong customer demand, with around 14,000 units deliverie," said Tarun Garg, Whole-time Director & COO, HMIL.

Amazon cloud computing outage disrupts Snapchat, Robinhood, others

SAN FRANCISCO, AP: Amazon said its cloud computing service was recovering from a major outage that disrupted online activity around the world.

Amazon Web Services provides remote computing services to many governments, universities and companies, including The Associated Press.

On DownDetector, a website that tracks online outages, users reported issues with Snapchat, Roblox, Fortnite, online broker Robinhood, the McDonald's app and many other services. Coinbase and Signal both said on X that they were experiencing issues related to the AWS outage.

The first signs of trouble emerged at around 3:11 a.m. Eastern Time, when Amazon Web Services reported on its Health Dashboard that it is "investigating increased error rates and latencies for multiple AWS services in the US-EAST-1 Region."

Later, the company reported that there were "significant error rates" and that engineers were "actively working" on the problem.

Around 6 a.m. Eastern Time, the company said that it was seeing recovery across most of the affected services. "We can confirm global services and features that rely on US-EAST-1 have also recovered," it said, adding that it is working on a "full resolution."

How teachers can make use of Artificial Intelligence

DARSHAN B M

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly transforming classrooms, lesson plans, and even homework. From auto-grading tools to AI tutors that can explain complex topics in seconds, technology's presence in education is undeniable. Students today can ask chatbots to summarise lessons, write essays, or solve mathematical problems within minutes. Digital tools have become quiet companions in study rooms across the country.

Naturally, a question arises in this AI-driven era: do we still need teachers? The question may sound provocative, but it captures a real tension in India's education landscape. As both the government and private institutions promote digital learning, the traditional role of teachers is undergoing a significant shift. Blackboards are being replaced by smart screens, handwritten assignments by digital submissions, and classroom discussions by online forums. Yet, before accepting technology as the new guru, it's worth asking whether machines can truly replace the human touch that gives education its meaning.

The promise of AI

AI has brought remarkable innovations to education. Intelligent learning platforms can now adjust lessons according to each student's pace and level of understanding. They can instantly evaluate responses, point out mistakes, and recommend follow-up exercises. For students, this means instant feedback and a personalised learning path.

For overworked teachers handling large classes, AI can be a powerful ally. It can perform repetitive administrative tasks such as grading papers, generating worksheets, maintaining attendance records, and analysing performance data. By reducing the burden of routine work, teachers can devote more time to creative instruction, individual attention, and classroom interaction.

In regions facing teacher shortages—especially in remote and rural areas—AI can make education more accessible. Recorded lectures, adaptive learning modules, and voice-assisted lessons can reach students who might otherwise have no access to trained educators. In this sense, the promise of AI is not just convenience; it represents inclusion, offering a bridge to those who might otherwise be left behind.

Still, the use of AI must be guided by human wisdom. Technology should act as a tool that supports education, not a substitute for it. Without thoughtful implementation, learning risks becoming mechanical—losing the curiosity and creativity that make it meaningful.

Beyond the screen

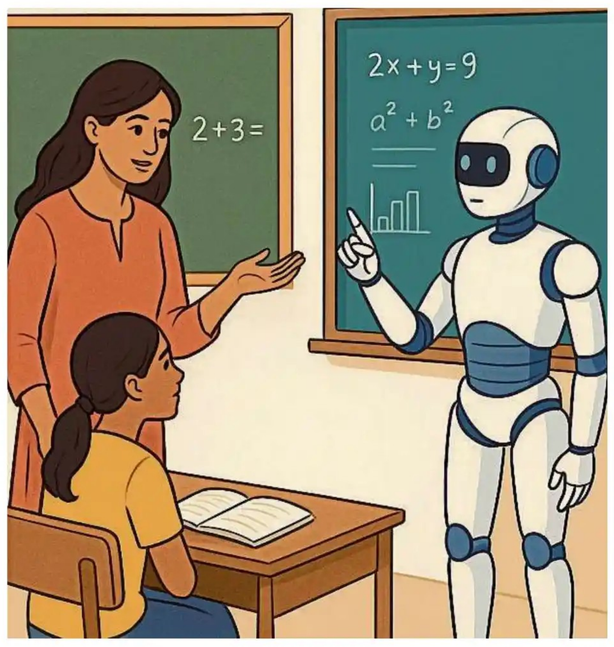
Teaching is far more than the delivery of information. A teacher is not merely a provider of facts but a mentor, motivator, and moral guide. No algorithm can sense hesitation in a student's voice, comfort an anxious learner, or celebrate the small victories that build confidence. Education is a deeply human process, built on relationships of trust, empathy, and encouragement.

In India's diverse classrooms—shaped by multiple languages, cultures, and social realities—this human connection is indispensable. Teachers understand the emotional and social challenges their students face, from economic hardship to family pressures. They adapt their methods accordingly, ensuring every child feels seen and capable. A machine, no matter how advanced, cannot replicate that sensitivity.

Indian education has long valued the idea of the guru—a figure who not only imparts knowledge but shapes character. A teacher's role extends beyond textbooks, nurturing curiosity, moral understanding, and critical thinking. Machines may deliver accurate answers, but they cannot cultivate compassion, creativity, or wisdom.

At the same time, India faces a widening digital divide. Many rural households lack reliable internet access, and numerous government schools continue to operate with limited resources. If digital tools become the primary medium of learning, students in underprivileged areas could fall further behind. Unequal access to technology risks deepening existing educational inequalities between urban and rural India.

Overdependence on AI can also make students passive consumers of information. When machines provide ready-made solutions, the ability to think independently, reason critically, or question deeply can weaken. Teachers play a crucial role in keeping these skills alive—encouraging debate, discussion, and reflection, all of which are vital for a healthy democracy and a thriving society.



Teaching together: Humans and machines

Rather than viewing Artificial Intelligence as a rival, we should see it as a teaching partner. AI can handle mechanical tasks like grading, attendance, and lesson planning, freeing teachers to focus on dialogue, mentorship, and higher-order thinking. When humans and machines work together, classrooms can become more efficient and engaging.

For this partnership to succeed, teacher training must evolve. Educators need to be comfortable using technology and understanding its possibilities and limits. They should be able to interpret data from digital tools, design lessons that blend human creativity with technological support, and use AI responsibly to benefit every learner. The goal is not to replace teachers with AI, but to amplify the teacher's impact through it.

Policy support is equally important. Teachers should have a say in choosing and shaping the tools they use. They must ensure that AI is implemented ethically, that student data is protected, and that technology remains a servant of education, not its master. Without human oversight, AI could unintentionally reinforce biases or reduce learning to a series of automated transactions.

AI should act as an assistant—helping teachers teach better, not teaching in their place. The combination of human wisdom and machine efficiency can bring balance to the classroom, making education both intelligent and humane.

Human touch still matters

At the heart of education lies something no machine can replicate—the human connection. A teacher's presence brings warmth, trust, and inspiration. The look of encouragement, the gentle correction, or the shared pride in a student's success—these are emotions beyond the reach of algorithms.

AI can make learning faster and more efficient, but it cannot make it meaningful on its own. The true purpose of education is not merely to inform but to transform—to build character, curiosity, and compassion. These qualities grow only through human relationships.

As classrooms continue to evolve, the teacher's role will not disappear—it will change. The teacher of tomorrow will be less of a lecturer and more of a guide: someone who uses AI to inspire creativity, foster empathy, and sharpen critical thinking. In this digital age, India does not need fewer teachers; it needs more empowered, well-trained teachers who can combine the best of technology with the best of humanity.

When machines handle efficiency, teachers can focus on nurturing minds and hearts. That, perhaps, is the real promise of education in the AI era—not replacing humans with machines, but making humans wiser through them.

(The writer is a n assistant professor at a management school)

What's your high-leverage activity?

Take a shot at activities that define you, help you create and not just consume, and help you take control of your life even amid routine, writes Pavan Soni

They say life happens as you are busy making plans. This is felt more acutely at work than in life, for there's very little that one owns at work. As people survive their workday, sandwiched between soul-killing travels and lifeless meetings, it's a question to ask every once in a while: 'What have I achieved lately?'

It's imperative to identify those defining outcomes that you are particularly proud of. If in the month that's gone by, the quarter that has passed and the ever-elusive financial year, nothing much stems up, you realise that it just happened, with you at the standby. It's a sombre hint that unless you take radical steps, the same fate will befall the upcoming decade. It's crucial that amid your duties, the motions of life and work and the ever-escalating demands others place on you, you 'steal' time to plan some high-leverage activities.

Investing in your future

What are high-leverage activities? These are intentional investments that you make in yourself, both in life and career, that yield compounding returns, are assets by themselves, and are typically not urgent. One must 'steal' time to plant and systematically invest in those high-leverage activities, or else they just can't happen accidentally. A clear giveaway is 'non-urgency'—in the sense that even if you don't perform such activities, it won't hurt anybody, least of all your employer.

We all understand the concept of compounding returns and an asset class in financial terms. These are all around us—the various financial instruments—land, precious metal, stocks, bonds, or the clever new alternatives.

But how about a non-financial class? How about your body, your mind, your career, your relationships? These are rather nebulous realms, where both valuation and exchange are arduous. You can't put a market value on your health or your relationships, or what you do, which doesn't show up in meaningful ways in the interim.

The leverage comes from deliberately dissociating such actions from the vagaries of your current predicament and avoiding the unreasonable demands people place on your benevolence.

High-leverage activities offer a shot at immortality. They help you create and not just consume. They help you take control of your life while you are busy meeting obligations.

As for me, over the last 20 years, I can think of just three high-leverage activities in the professional realm: doing a PhD, starting a company, and authoring books. For starters, none of these are time-critical. But I must start somewhere if I want to reach the goal someday.

Let's look at what doesn't qualify for a high-leverage activity. At an office, your incessant meetings, countless presentations, making and sharing reports, taking updates, and certainly water-cooler moments don't make the cut. Especially, in the world of general-purpose AI, most of your routine can be dispensed with, and you must inch up to higher-order activities, which machines can't perform yet.

Some of the high-leverage activities could include mentoring and coaching, product development, building and sharing high-quality content, and institution building. These are not exactly firefighting activities that people often find themselves performing. Remember: Firefighting is a thankless activity. The rate at which an urgency hands at your table is the same rate at which you are forgotten thereafter.

Making quality time

You must start by focusing on high-leverage activities daily. You can't wait for that sabbatical or the elusive 'strategic time out' where you hammer your dream novel or give shape to your startup venture. You must be willing to take time out daily.

All books are written one page at a time, often in the most non-conducive fashion. If you are waiting for that mahogany wood table, the coffee by the side, the chirping of birds in the background and blessings of the appropriate muse, you won't make progress.

You must be willing to set aside time amid the relatively mundane daily affairs. If you can't invest on a moment-by-moment basis, that culmination would remain a mirage.

Secondly, be willing to say no a thousand times over. By being selective in saying 'yes' and raising your threshold for engagement, you save a lot of time and emotional energy from activities you can do but shouldn't. The three levers are to eliminate, delegate or automate. If you see yourself sucked into activities that have far outlived their utility, you press the delete button without regret. And if the work must be done regardless, for it's an organisational mandate or indeed urgent, learn to delegate it with confidence. And if there are no takers, use technology. Remember: Technology is a great slave but a tyrant master.

The last element is of strategic patience and dogged perseverance. Since these are assets in their own right, they take time to come by. You won't have much to show immediately, not much to impress others with or motivate yourself with, and that makes such activities rare and impactful. You must be willing to be at it for a long time, creating your own map and then traversing through those uncharted territories. Don't seek a script, for you must create your own, and that's where patience and perseverance are the key.

By promising yourself a shot at immortality, you transcend the pains and doubts that so often stop mere mortals. And for all of this, you don't have to leave the worldly affairs; you just need to be a lot more intentional.

In summary, your life should be punctuated with a set of high-leverage activities, while rest is just a passe. Such compounding assets can't happen if you keep yourself busy by hopping from one urgency to another. They warrant stealing time, saying no a thousand times, and persevering through external criticism and internal doubts. It's time for you to focus on your high leverage activitity.

(The writer is innovation evangelist by profession and a teacher by passion)

BULLETIN BOARD

IP analyst internship
ESSI Integrated Technologies is hiring technology benchmarking and IP analyst interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of electrical machines, mechanical and electrical product design, physics and prompt engineering can apply by November 14. The stipend is Rs 25,000 - 30,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/amxNK.

E-Commerce internship
Lucira Jewellery is hiring an e-commerce marketing intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of SEO can apply by November 12. The stipend is Rs 10,000-15,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/Q8iHB.

SEO internship
LI-MAT Soft Solutions Private Limited is hiring search engine optimisation interns in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of digital marketing, Google analytics, SEM and SEO, and social media marketing can apply by November 3 at Apply at: https://shorturl.at/0EFum. The stipend: Rs 10,000-15,000/month.

Business development internship
Enlightened Thought Works is hiring business development interns in Bengaluru(Hybrid). Students with knowledge of AI video generation, Canva, good written English and spoken Hindi, social media marketing, and video editing can apply by November 5. The stipend is Rs 15,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/6E1wZ.

Introducing creativity in classrooms to inspire future generation

JOSELYN T LOBO

The reality of the formal education system muzzling our originality and creativity is well-known. In his book Ideas on Demand, writer Milind Harrdas states 'Each one of us was born creative. And then, one day, we went to school.' In a similar vein, Pablo Picasso, the renowned Spanish painter, remarks: 'Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.' It is estimated that by the time we turn forty, most of us express less than two per cent of the creativity we demonstrated as children.

Creativity, or a creative approach to teaching and learning, is crucial in the present times. In fact, creativity is one of the Four Cs of the 21st-century learning skillset, along with critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. Let us explore ways the teacher can foster a climate of creativity in her classroom and rekindle the creative spark.

Creativity is a skill that can be learned and developed with practice, like riding a bicycle or operating a computer. The teacher first needs to adapt creative teaching methodologies that appeal to the present Gen Z. Games, participatory exercises, puzzles, case studies, role-plays, simulations, and brainstorming techniques are some student-centred methods that may be explored. Some simple creativity exercises, like writing the names of trees or the most words with the letter 'I', can be used by any teacher, regardless of the subject being taught. (See box for more details and other exercises).

Generating new idea

Creativity, which derives from the Latin creare, to make, is most often associated with the arts and culture. Creativity is the ability or process by which something new and different is created. The 'something" may be either a physical object (sculpture, painting, or invention) or something intangible (a theory, idea, or melody). Creativity is the act of turning new ideas into reality. Creativity is characterised by the ability to perceive the world in new ways, to make connections between seemingly unrelated phenomena.

Creativity is for everyone, not just the talented few. It is, therefore, the prerogative of a teacher to encourage and reawaken the spark of creativity in children.

A creative teacher can nudge students to combine the two sides—the left and right brains—to multiply their creative power. We can be creative in almost anything we do—at work, at play, in business, in parenting, as well as teaching and training.

According to brain expert Tony Buzan, our brain has about 100 billion cells, each of which is directly or indirectly connected via ganglia and dendrites to approximately 20,000 other cells.

This boils down to the fact that the number of thoughts that we can think is greater than the new number of molecules in the known universe. You are a potential genius.

Some exercises on creativity

Here are some simple exercises on creativity and critical thinking that any teacher can use, regardless of the subject or topic they are teaching.

■ Display a painted coffee mug, which is usually kept in a showcase, and ask students to think of multiple uses for the mug beyond drinking.
Try brainstorming the multiple uses of a brick, brown paper, or a plate.

■ **Creativity circles:** Make students draw in their notebook or prepare an A4 sheet with 12 circles the size of a 5-rupee coin. Let students draw round objects. The coin is an obvious example. Other examples may be found in the classroom, on campus, on the road outside, in natural objects, and on themselves.

■ Within a specified time limit (two minutes), write down the names of trees. Count one for each answer you were able to come up with. 0-7 indicates low creativity; 8-15 average creativity, and above 15 is high.

■ In two minutes, write as many words as you can with the letter 'I'. 0-5 indicates low creativity; 6-10, average; and above 10, high.

■ List the number of languages spoken in India or the world in one minute. Here, speed is the criterion, as fluency is a measure of creativity.

■ **The 20 idea method:** Write a topic, goal, or problem at the top of a marker board and discipline your group to continue writing until you generate a minimum of 20 answers. This method can also be done individually.

Creative classroom

Myths and false beliefs about creativity abound, and a creative teacher can dispel these misconceptions by being creative in her approach and nurturing students' creativity. Some myths about creativity include: a) creativity is a gift of the few; b) one must be 'bright' to be creative; c) students need to have core skills such as literacy before they can be creative; d) creative thinking skills cannot be taught.

Creativity incorporates playfulness, curiosity, sensitivity, and independence. Creative, rather than 'reactive' thinking needs to be fostered. A creative classroom:

■ cultivates a climate where creative thinking flourishes constantly; encourages questioning to stimulate creativity;
■ makes it clear that all ideas are valuable;
■ encourages self-evaluation and cultivates self-esteem;
■ makes fun a central component of the teaching/learning process.
■ is organised and ordered, yet there is the flexibility to generate ideas within the structure of teaching/learning.

Teachers are powerful role models. They can best encourage our students' creativity by being creative themselves. An encouraging teacher might say: That's a good idea. How can we build on it? What other solutions will you go on to find now? Throughout my over three-decade teaching and training career, my greatest and most acknowledged strength has been the use of creative methods in the classroom. Apart from the commonly used learner-centred methods like case studies, group discussions and role plays, I used a multitude of games and exercises as well as music, antiques, folk material, and my award-winning thematic stamp collection 'The World at Work' showcasing the evolution of economic life from the primitive hunting stage to the modern industrial stage.

Creativity adds meaning to our life as we can enjoy more when we are involved in it. Moreover, creativity is not fixed at birth and can be learnt and enhanced at almost any age—the younger, the better. The message a teacher needs to reinforce at every available opportunity in the classroom and on campus is that all students are creative, not just the privileged few. The mantra 'Everyone is Creative.'

(The author is a retired academic)

Queries? Suggestions? Feedback?
dheducation@deccanherald.co.in

Brook, Salt overwhelm New Zealand

CHRISTCHURCH, AFP: A ruthless England led by skipper Harry Brook's brutal 78 punished some lax New Zealand fielding to win the second T20 international by 65 runs in Christchurch on Monday.

The visitors raced to a mammoth 236/4 from their 20 overs after Black Caps captain Mitchell Santner won the toss and elected to field at Hagley Oval. Brook and opener Phil Salt (85) blasted New Zealand to all parts while the hosts didn't help themselves with misfields, errant throwing and dropped catches.

Wicketkeeper Tim Seifert dropped Jacob Bethell after a top edge swirled high in the strong northwest wind, and later James Neesham put down Brook. The Brook drop was crucial, with the 26-year-old blasting 78 from just 35 deliveries as part of a 129-run partnership with Salt.

Brief scores: England: 236/4 in 20 overs (Phil Salt 85, Harry Brook 78, Tom Banton 29 n.o.; Kyle Jamieson 2-47) bt New Zealand: 171 all out in 18 overs (Tim Seifert 39, Mark Chapman 28, Mitchell Santner 36; Luke Wood 2-36, Brydon Carse 2-27, Adil Rashid 4-32, Liam Dawson 2-38). **Result:** England won by 65 runs. **PoM:** Harry Brook. **Next match:** Oct 23 (Auckland).

IN BRIEF

SWR beat Canara Bank

▸ South Western Railway defeated Canara Bank in a thriller 3-2 in on Day 7 of the 9th Hockey Karnataka League Championship on Saturday, reports DHNS. **Results:** Karnataka State Police: 2 (Vasanth Kumar 37th, Manikanta Bijwad 42nd) drew with SAI STC: 2 (Pavan DR 16th, Nakul Malnad 22nd); South Western Railway: 3 (Pavan Madivalar 9th, Shamanth CS 48th, Chethan MK 50th) bt Canara Bank: 2 (Pruthvi Raj GN 26th, Manoj 57th).

Abhay advances to last-16

▸ Multiple-time Asian Games medallist Abhay Singh advanced to the round-of-16 at the US Open, a prestigious PSA Platinum squash event in Philadelphia, while compatriot Ramit Tandon lost his opening match, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The 27-year-old Abhay, ranked 30th in the world, edged out Egyptian world No. 31 Mohamed ElSherbini 11-8, 4-11, 4-11, 11-6, 11-5 in a 62-minute thriller on Sunday, and will next meet Welsh third seed Joel Makin.

Tandon lost to Kiwi world No. 3 Paul Coll 5-11, 9-11, 7-11.

Greco Roman wrestlers lose

▸ India's Greco Roman wrestlers could not win even a single bout on the opening day of the U-23 World Championship as all four in action suffered defeats in the opening round on Monday, reports PTI from Novi Sad (Serbia).

Gaurav (63kg), Ankit (77kg), Rohit Bura (87kg) and Joginder Rathee (130kg) represented India's challenge and lost their respective bouts in an abject manner. Their progress will now depend on the progress of their vanquishers.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's WC: South Africa vs Pakistan **(3 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1** & **JioHotstar.**

Second ODI: Bangladesh vs West Indies **(1 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

FOOTBALL

Champions League: Barcelona vs Olympiacos, Kairat vs Pafos **(both 10:15 pm)**; Newcastle vs Benfica, PSV vs Napoli, Bayer Leverkusen vs PSG, Union Saint-Gilloise, Copenhagen vs Dortmund, Villarreal vs Manchester City, Arsenal vs Atletico Madrid **(all 12:30 am IST on Wednesday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

KABADDI

PKL: UMumba vs Jaipur Pink Panthers **(8 pm)**; Haryana Steeler vs Gujarat Giants **(9 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network & JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Atletico banking on Alvarez

Resurgent Spanish side takes on in-form Arsenal; PSG play Leverkusen

MADRID, AFP

Atletico Madrid striker Julian Alvarez will need to bring all his mastery to the table to unlock a stingy Arsenal defence when the two sides lock horns on Tuesday night. AFP

Julian Alvarez has established himself as Atletico Madrid's key player but the club still needs to prove to the Argentina international they belong among Europe's elite and can fulfil his ambitions.

The Rojiblancos visit to last season's semifinalists Arsenal in the Champions League on Tuesday is a fine opportunity to test their mettle.

Diego Simeone's side are unbeaten in six games across all competitions since they fell to a last minute defeat by Liverpool at Anfield in September.

Virgil van Dijk's stoppage-time winner left Atletico with a familiar sinking feeling and compounded what had been a poor start domestically, on the back of a trophyless 2024/25 campaign.

In the following days there was renewed speculation Barcelona were interested in signing the striker next summer as a replacement for veteran Robert Lewandowski.

"People always talk," said Alvarez, neither fanning the flames of the rumours nor completely quashing them.

Alvarez joined Atletico in a deal worth 85 million euros ($99 million) from Manchester City in the summer of 2024 and scored 29 times in a strong first season. Antoine Griezmann's influence on the team receded and Alvarez took up the reins, particularly in the second half of the campaign. The striker had a controversially disallowed penalty in the shoot-out against Real Madrid in the Champions League last 16 last season as Atletico were knocked out, precipitating the collapse of their season.

The club rebuilt this summer and although they took a while to find their rhythm, Alvarez has raised his game to a higher level.

The 25-year-old scored a hat-trick against Rayo Vallecano to claim a 3-2 win for his side, before netting twice against Real Madrid in a 5-2 rout of Atletico's arch-rivals.

Alvarez also scored and created two more goals as Atletico thrashed Eintracht Frankfurt 5-1 in their second Champions League match to get back on track in Europe.

LIVE 12:15 AM ON WEDNESDAY SONY SPORTS NETWORK

Before that run of matches Alvarez appeared frustrated with Simeone, who hooked him repeatedly before the end of matches.

Alvarez later said lip-readers had got it wrong and he had not criticised his coach.

However, after Alvarez's outburst and the Barcelona links, Simeone realised keeping the striker happy was a top priority.

"Julian is an extraordinary player, he is committed to the team, he is committed to the club, he is giving his all, obviously, and we are delighted to have him with us," said the coach. "We have to take good care of him so that he stays with us for many years to come."

Simeone said Alvarez, who won the World Cup with Argentina in 2022, was Atletico's "best" player, in a rare break from his usual team-first approach.

Alvarez's performances have also drawn admiration from his former coach Pep Guardiola, who praised him last week. "Julian had to compete with Erling (Haaland), which was something extraordinary for us. Now he's at one of the best teams in the world, Atletico Madrid, with a world-class coach and team-mates, and he's performing incredibly well," said Man City boss Guardiola.

Playmaker Alex Baena's return from injury is a boost for Atletico and Alvarez, who already showed signs of a good connection with the summer arrival on Saturday as Simeone's team edged Osasuna 1-0.

Tuesday's matches: Barcelona vs Olympiacos, Kairat vs Pafos (both 10:15 pm); Newcastle vs Benfica, PSV vs Napoli, Bayer Leverkusen vs PSG, Union Saint-Gilloise, Copenhagen vs Dortmund, Villarreal vs Manchester City, Arsenal vs Atletico Madrid (all 12:30 am IST on Wednesday).

Mbappe strike sends Madrid top

Frenchman extends goalscoring streak to 11 straight games

MADRID, AFP

Kylian Mbappe extended his goalscoring streak to 11 consecutive games to help Real Madrid reclaim top spot in La Liga with a 1-0 victory at nine-man Getafe on Sunday.

After rivals Barcelona briefly displaced Los Blancos with a narrow win over Girona on Saturday, Xabi Alonso's side restored their two-point advantage before next weekend's Clasico. Getafe fended off Madrid until Allan Nyom was dismissed a minute after coming on and Mbappe quickly pounced to decide the game in the 80th minute. Alex Sancris was also sent off as Getafe unravelled in the final stages.

Alonso started with Brazilian star Vinicius Junior on the bench, with the Champions League clash against Juventus on Wednesday and Barca's impending visit in mind. The winger turned out to be key as a second half substitute, with both of Getafe's red cards issued for fouls on him. Mbappe returned after an ankle problem kept him out of a France World Cup qualifier earlier in the week, leading the line at Getafe's Coliseum stadium. The French forward had scored in his previous 10 consecutive appearances for club and country, and started brightly.

David Soria saved an early effort from Mbappe, who also curled a low shot narrowly wide of the far post. Getafe quickly earned a foothold in the game and began to frustrate the visitors, stopping them from creating much danger.

Only towards the end of the first period did Madrid perk up again in attack, with Soria saving from Rodrygo Goes after good work by Jude Bellingham.

Getafe's goalkeeper made a good stop from a powerful David Alaba free-kick and Fede Valverde flashed a strike across the face of goal before half-time.

Alonso sent on Vinicius in the second half and his spark began to worry the hosts, who resorted to fouls to fend off the Brazilian. Bellingham fed Mbappe who fired off target, and then whipped a free-kick inches wide, as Madrid remained comfortably on top.

Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe scored the solitary goal in his team's victory over Getafe on Sunday. X

Vice-capt Smriti takes the blame for batting collapse

INDORE, PTI

India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana **(in pic)** took responsibility for the team's heartbreaking four-run loss to England in the Women's World Cup here, admitting her dismissal triggered the batting collapse and that their shot selection "could have been better".

Set a target of 289, India appeared well on course with opener Mandhana (88) stitching two crucial partnerships, 125 with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and 67 with Deepti Sharma, while anchoring the chase.

But her mistimed lofted shot to long-off opened the floodgates, as Richa Ghosh drilled one straight to cover, and then, Deepti miscued a slog as India lost crucial wickets to fall agonisingly short of their target.

"I think everyone's shot selections at that time - we could have done better with our shot selections. Especially it started from me, so I will take it on me, that the shot selection should have been better," Mandhana said at the post-match press conference on Sunday.

"We just needed six (runs) per over. Maybe we should have taken the game deeper. I'll take it on myself because the collapse started from me."

The left-hander said emotions got the better of her as she deviated from her own plan of avoiding aerial strokes. "I thought I could take her on. I was trying to aim more over covers. I mistimed that shot. Maybe the shot wasn't needed at that time. I just needed to be more patient because, throughout the innings, I was trying to tell myself to be patient and not to play aerial shots.

"Maybe the emotions took over for that one, which never helps in cricket. But, walking back, I was pretty confident that we'll be able to get the win, but it's cricket, you can't ever think too ahead."

The collapse was similar to India's performance in the previous game against Australia, where the top-order provided a solid platform, only for the middle and lower order batters to crumble.

"If you see England's innings, they did not finish well as well. Going in and trying to get seven (runs) per over is not an easy thing. So, I wouldn't say that they haven't... and I just feel that in the first two or three matches we definitely finished well."

Bangla self-destruct as SL stay in semis race

NAVI MUMBAI, PTI: Skipper Chamari Athapaththu produced a dream final over scalping three wickets to help Sri Lanka beat a spirited Bangladesh by seven runs in a low-scoring thriller in their Women's World Cup match here on Monday.

Sri Lanka, who were under pressure almost throughout the second half after they folded meekly for 202 in 48.5 overs, pipped Bangladesh in the last over of the contest as combative knocks from skipper Nigar Sultana (77) and Sharmin Akhter (64 retired hurt) went in vain.

With nine runs needed for win in the final over, Bangladesh certainly left a tad more to score with the game on the line and despite their skipper Sultana being at the crease, Sri Lanka captain Athapaththu pulled it off for her side giving away just one run to keep her side still in contention for the final four.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 202 all out in 48.4 overs (Chamari Athapaththu 46, Hasini Perera 85, Nilakshika Silva 37; Rabeya Khan 2-39, Shorna Akter 3-27) bt Bangladesh: 195/9 in 50 overs (Sharmin Akhter 64 n.o., Nigar Sultana 77; Sugandika Kumari 2-38, Chamari Athapaththu 4-42) by 7 runs.

PoM: Hasini Perera.

Today's match: Pakistan vs South Africa (3 pm).

India vs NZ: Virtual KNOCKOUT for final semi spot

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Four out of the five teams that are currently at the bottom of the points table are all in contention for the lone remaining slot in the semifinals of the ongoing Women's ODI World Cup.

While eight points guarantee a semifinal spot, only India and New Zealand have a chance of achieving that at the expense of each other. But the domination of top three Australia, England and South Africa, has left the fight for fourth place in the last-four wide open with Sri Lanka and Pakistan too fancying their chances even with six points. Of course with some helpful results in other fixtures.

With seven matches to be played in the league stage, here are how the permutations and combinations play out.

INDIA

M: 5 | W: 2 | L: 3 | P: 4 | NRR: **0.526**

Three back-to-back defeats have left India sweating over qualification in a home World Cup. For them to progress without any major concerns, they will have to beat New Zealand and Bangladesh.

If India manage to beat New Zealand but lose to Bangladesh, they will have to make sure their Net Run-Rate (NRR) is better than that of New Zealand, who could also finish on six points if they beat England.

India will not be shown the exit door if they fail to beat New Zealand. They will have to beat Bangladesh and hope England manage to win against New Zealand. If the Kiwis win both of their games, India will be knocked out.

PAKISTAN

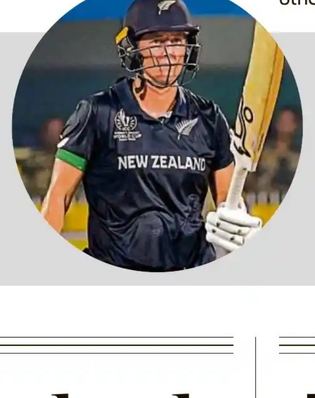
M: 5 | W: 0 | L: 3 | P: 2 | NR: 2 | NRR: **-1.887**

Two points against England and New Zealand due to weather interruption, halted a three-match losing streak for Pakistan and has given them a bit of a breather, keeping their qualification hopes hanging by a thin thread. If they manage to beat South Africa and Sri Lanka in their final two games, six points will push them closer, but they will have to win big and hope for a healthy NRR, that manages to eclipse other teams.

SRI LANKA

M: 6 | W: 1 | L: 3 | P: 4 | NR: 2 | NRR: **-1.035**

Despite having suffered a 59-run, 89-run and 10-wicket loss, Sri Lanka are breathing and are alive in the competition after two washouts and their win over Bangladesh. With just a game remaining, they will have to win their last game against Pakistan and will have to hope for other results to go their way.



NEW ZEALAND

M: 5 | W: 1 | L: 2 | P: 4 | NR: 2 | NRR: **-0.245**

After losing to Australia and South Africa in their first two fixtures, New Zealand blew Bangladesh away by 100 runs and used it as damage control for their NRR. Just when they started to gain momentum, both their games against Pakistan and Sri Lanka were washed out.

By winning both their remaining games, they will reach eight points and secure a qualification berth without depending on others. The game against India becomes a now-or-never territory and a loss could end their campaign. If New Zealand win against India and lose to England, they will have to hope Bangladesh beat India and lose to Sri Lanka.

Triumphant Verstappen cuts lead

AUSTIN, AFP

Max Verstappen maintained the pressure on McLaren and cut another chunk out of Oscar Piastri's lead in this year's world championship on Sunday when he cruised to a commanding triumph at the United States Grand Prix.

In sizzling conditions, Red Bull's four-time world champion led from pole position to chequered flag to come home 7.959 seconds clear of title-chasing Lando Norris, of McLaren, with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finishing third, 4.041 adrift. Australian championship leader Oscar Piastri of McLaren finished fifth.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen celebrates with a trophy after winning the United States Grand Prix. REUTERS

It was Verstappen's fourth win in Texas and seventh on American soil, his fifth this year and the 68th of his career.

It was also, for Verstappen, the fourth race in succession in which he had out-qualified and out-raced both McLarens.

Verstappen has reduced Piastri's 104 point advantage over him to 40 with five races remaining.

Seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton was fourth in the second Ferrari ahead of Piastri and Mercedes's George Russell. Verstappen said: "It's been an unbelievable weekend for us. I knew it wouldn't be straightforward and the pace between us was close. But my first stint did it for me."

Pakistan punish sloppy SA catching

RAWALPINDI, AFP: Pakistan punished poor catching from South Africa to accumulate 259/5 on the opening day of the second and final Test in Rawalpindi on Monday.

Had the tourists not dropped five catches on a turning pitch they would have been in a better position after Pakistan won the toss and batted.

Skipper Shan Masood, dropped on 71 off a luckless Keshav Maharaj, top-scored with 87 while Abdullah Shafique -- dropped four times -- made 57.

Saud Shakeel and Salman Agha will resume on Tuesday unbeaten on 42 and 10 respectively, with the home team seeking a 2-0 series win against the world Test champions.

South Africa's Keshav Maharaj (right) celebrates after dismissing Pakistan's Shan Masood. AFP

South African pacer Kagiso Rabada trapped Mohammad Rizwan with the fifth delivery with the second new ball for 19 to give some respite to his team. Maharaj, who missed the first Test in Lahore through injury, took 2/63 and fellow spinner Simon Harmer 2/75.

With the bulk of bowling done by Maharaj and Harmer, spinner Senuran Muthusamy -- who took 11 wickets in the first Test -- was surprisingly used for just four overs.

Brief scores: Pakistan: 259/5 in 91 overs (Abdullah Shafique 57, Shan Masood 87, Saud Shakeel 42; Keshav Maharaj 2-63, Simon Harmer 2-75)

Emerald Touch wins feature

HYDERABAD RESULTS

Emerald Touch, from the stables of Nilesh Rawal and ridden by Ashhad Asbar, won the Mir Mustaq Ali Khan Memorial Cup, the feature event of the Hyderabad races on Monday.

1. Nijinksy Plate - 1200M: Grief (Mukund Kakani) Sai Kumar 1; Sharanga (Ashhad Asbar) 2; NRI Range (HM Akshay) 3; American Gangster (Naresh) 4; Not Run: Kitsune. Wb: 5-1/2, Hd, 1-1/4L. T: 1:11.20. TB: Prasad Raju. Fav: NRI Range.

2. Sircilla Plate -1400M: Arizona Sun (Ashok Kumar Gupta) Akshay Kumar 1; Special Star (Sai Kumar) 2; Elegant Lady (Ashhad Asbar) 3; French Lady (Ajay Kumar) 4; Wb: 5-1/2, 4, 4-1/4L. T: 1:27.05. TB:Hilton Sequeria. K. Fav: Arizona Sun.

3. Sandown Park Plate - 1400M: Hugh Capet (Subodh Kumar) Akshay Kumar 1; Brooklyn Beauty (Gaurav Singh) 2; Reigning Beauty (Afroz Khan) 3; Decoy (Mukesh Kumar) 4; Wb: 3/4, 1-1/4L, Shd. T: 1:26.14. TB: Sandeep. Fav: Hugh Capet.

4. Mir Mushtaq Ali Khan Memorial Cup - 1200M: Emerald Touch (Shyam Sunder) Ashhad Asbar 1; Clara (Akshay Kumar) & NRI High Power (Mukesh Kumar) Dht; Tiger Ruby (Rafique Sk) 4; Wb: 3, Dht, 3-1/2L. 1:12.55. TB: Nilesh Rawal. Fav: Emerald Touch.

5. SS Cardmaster Memorial Cup - 1400M: Hoping Star (Gurjinder Singh) Sai Kumar 1; Juramento (Afroz Khan) 2; Alcahol Free (Rafique SK) 3; Classy Dame (Abhay Singh) 4; Not Run: Flahsing Memories. Wb: 1-1/4, 1-1/4, 4-3/4L. T: 1:27.72. TB: Jasbir Singh. Fav: Juramento.

6. Nijinksky Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Foxy Girl (Ashok Gupta) Sonu Kumar 1; Equine Power (Sai Kumar) 2; Dream To Fly (Naresh) 3; Eminency (Nakhat Singhl) 4; Wb: 4, 2-1/2, 1-1/4L. T: 1-12.98. TB: Srinivas Reddy. Fav: Equine Power.

Bengaluru dividends:

I race: Rs 292w; 29, 11, 10p; Fc: Rs 2,210; Q: Rs 615; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 4,820 & 2,066; Ex: Rs 15,385 & 13,187.14:33 20-10-2025.

II race: Rs 18w; Rs 12, 18, 11p; Fc: Rs 132; Q: Rs 69; Shp: Rs 55; Thp: Rs 54; Tri: Rs 161 & 38; Ex: Rs 4,683 & 9,032.

III race: Rs 16w; 13, 45, 24p; Fc: Rs 470; Q: Rs 320; Shp: Rs 212; Thp: Rs 57; Tri: Rs 10,016 & 1,561; Ex: Rs 59,667 & 8,523.

IV race: Rs 19w; 12, 12, 12p; Fc: Rs 33 & 33; Q: Rs 16 & 16; Shp: Rs 14 & 15; Tri: Rs 57 & 57: Ex: Rs 749 & 704.

V race: Rs 59w; 14, 13, 14p; Fc: Rs 228; Q: Rs 86; Shp: Rs 41; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 353 & 170; Ex: Rs 3,224 & 4,491.

VI race: Rs 43w; 13, 12, 20p; Fc: Rs 109; Q: Rs 53; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 163 & 116; Ex: Rs 1,930 & 1,861.

Jackpot: Rs 1,061 (466) **Runner-up:** Rs 130 (1634). **I treble:** Rs 2,283 (2). **II treble:** Rs 350 (67).

Al-Nassr's Ronaldo unlikely to travel to Goa

MARGAO, PTI

Saudi Arabia's top club Al-Nassr are arriving in India on Monday night for their AFC Champions League 2 away match against FC Goa but marquee player Cristiano Ronaldo is unlikely to accompany the visiting team for the game scheduled on October 22.

According to Saudi Arabia's sports newspaper Al Riyadhiah, the 40-year-old Ronaldo is not going to be a part of the travelling party despite multiple requests from the FC Goa management.

Al-Nassr are bracing up for their third game in the continental club tournament after their comfortable league won over Al-Fateh and their next match is scheduled to take place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda.

Cristiano Ronaldo

FC Goa had defeated former AFC Cup winners, Al Seeb, to qualify for ACL 2, and were then drawn alongside Ronaldo's Al Nassr in Group D of the tournament.

Al-Nassr and Indian Super League club FC Goa being drawn in the same group of the continental tournament has raised expectations of the Portuguese superstar making a trip to India for a competitive match.

It is understood that his contract with Al-Nassr has a clause giving him the right to pick and choose matches outside Saudi Arabia. Al-Nassr will be arriving at the Dabolim international airport.

Ronaldo, who is looking to play in next year's World Cup, is also focussed on managing his workload and give himself a chance to compete in the showpiece.

Moreover, Al-Nassr have won both their group-stage fixtures of Asian AFC Champions League 2 in the absence of Ronaldo, and are poised to advance to the next round.

After their match against FC Goa, Al-Nassr will be taking on rivals Al Ittihad.

BADMINTON FRENCH OPEN

Satwik-Chirag eye deep run

Lakshya, Ayush, Anmol drawn to face tough tests in tournament openers

PARIS, PTI

Fresh from a string of consistent performances in Asia, India's premier men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will eye a deep run at the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament, beginning here on Tuesday.

The world No. 6 duo, who reached the finals at both Hong Kong and China Masters before bowing out in the semi-finals of the Denmark Open last week, will start against the Indonesian combination of Muhammad Rian Ardianto and Rahmat Hidayat.

Having rediscovered their rhythm after an injury-plagued mid-season, the Indians will aim to convert their recent form into a title run at one of their favourite venues — the tournament where they had claimed their maiden Super 750 crown in 2022 and also won in 2024.

India's Unnati Hooda will take on Malaysia's Karupathevan Letshanaa. AFP FILE PHOTO

They also claimed a second bronze at world championships in Paris this year.

Among others, Lakshya Sen, who reached the final of Hong Kong Open, will begin his men's singles campaign against Nhat Nguyen of Ireland once again, while young Ayush Shetty, the US Open champion, faces a tough test against Japan's Koki Watanabe.

Lakshya had defeated the Irish shuttle in three games last week at Denmark.

In the women's singles, rising star Anmol Kharb, who made a breakthrough semifinal appearance at the Arctic Open Super 500 earlier this month.

Historical triple for City's Vinay

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-born Vinay S Madaiah **(in pic)** made the inaugural FMSCI Indian National Hill Climb Championship (INHCC) his by winning three of the classes in the Race to the Clouds event

Driving a Honda City Vtec for the Trackmeisters Team, Vinay won the premier 1151–1650cc Pro-stock petrol class with a timing of 2:03.804 seconds on the 2.5km track in Mallappa Konda (Andhra Pradesh).

The rest of his two wins came in the Indian Open and INRC Rally cars classes to make it a historic triple in the first FMSCI Hill Climb Nationals round.

Karthik Arumugam won the 1651cc and above class and came second to Vinay in two other classes.

In the Up to 1150cc category, Mohammed Sahil of Ideal Racing took a commanding victory with a 2:10.264 run.

Paddy: A trainer who mastered big races

BENGALURU, DHNS

S Padmanabhan, one of India's foremost trainers and a towering personality in the country's horse racing circuit, passed away on Sunday morning at the age of 71 following a battle with illness.

The soft-spoken trainer, whose career started slowly but then gathered immense momentum like a typical long-distance race, strode like a colossus where his accomplishments were considered second to none. After obtaining his licence in 1981 from the Madras Race Club, Padmanabhan, fondly called Paddy, soon shifted base to the Bangalore Turf Club and the City became his home since then.

Trainer Padmanabhan (left) with the all-conquering Desert God, a horse that he bred, owned and trained. On the right is his wife Sharmila. DH FILE PHOTO

An instinctive yet intelligent trainer who knew how to decode the big races, Padmanabhan delivered over 1000 winners that included an astounding 113 victories in Classics and around 200 in Graded ones.

What propelled him to greatness was his three Indian Derby triumphs — the pinnacle of racing in the country — through In The Spotlight, Desert God and Hall of Fame — and five wins in the Indian Turf Invitation Cup, where the best of the best from the country gather for a weekend of elite racing. His legacy is almost as good as two late greats — Rashid Byramji and Aris David.

Of the several horses Padmanabhan trained, Desert God will probably rank as his best; in fact, one of the finest the country has seen so far. Bred, owned and trained by him, Desert God aced the Indian Derby, Indian Turf Invitation Cup, Deccan Derby and Calcutta Derby.

The feat remains unmatched till now and is unlikely it'll ever be given how the dynamics have changed completely now.

Although he was ailing for the last couple of years and at times using a walking stick, Padmanabhan continued to train horses with the same passion because of his immense love for the sport. In the just-concluded Bangalore Summer Season, he delivered eight winners and a third-place finish in the Derby through Miracle Star.

Several top foreign jockeys like Frankie Dettori, Richard Hughes, Christophe Lemaire, Martin Dwyer and David Allan loved working with Padmanabhan.

In fact, Allan shared a decade-long partnership with Padmanabhan, the two producing some stirring wins.

Padmanabhan, who leaves behind his incredibly supportive wife Sharmila, was also a respected figure abroad. Padmanabhan would often travel to the United Kingdom and France to broaden his horizons and loved inculcating the lessons he learned from training legends like Henry Cecil and Andre Fabre.

Despite his hectic schedule, Padmanabhan loved giving it back to the sport. He served as an office-bearer of the Karnataka Trainers Association, Indian Racehorse Trainers Association, and the Karnataka Racehorse Owners Association.

The Turf Authorities of India honoured him as a Permanent Invitee.

PADDY POWER

- Padmanabhan is one of the only three trainers in India to have saddled over 100 Classic winners.
- He also trained more than 1,000 winners, including around 200 Graded race victories.
- He trained three Indian Derby winners – In The Spotlight (2012), Desert God (2016) and Hall of Famer (2017).
- Running Flame (1999), Zurbaran (2003), Becket (2010), In The Spotlight (2012) and Desert God (2017) won him Indian Turf Invitation Cup wins.

Delhi Golf Club: Where old-world charm mesmerises modern-day golfers

Iconic venue hosted the first edition of DP World India C'ship

HITA PRAKASH
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Marked by a dense treeline on either side of the fairway for the entire 18 holes, the Delhi Golf Club haunts the amateur golfers for its difficulty rate. And that's no exaggeration when you hear some of the top players' opinion about this unique 90-year-old course where the inaugural DP World India Championship was held.

"No. The next time I hit a driver will be in Abu Dhabi," world No. 2 Rory McIlroy had quipped on the eve of the tournament last Wednesday when asked if he would use the longest club in the bag, his biggest weapon, at the DGC this week.

"The dog (driver) is out of the bag and is having a sleep in the locker," added the reigning Masters champion, who teed off without a driver at an event for the first time since turning professional in 2007.

For McIlroy, Shane Lowry, Ben Griffin or the other long hitters, most of the par-4s and par-5s are short on the par-72 course. But the corridors of the green turf that are covered in forest force even the best not to be adventurous to cut down the distance. Because a ball even an inch inside the boundaries of the jungle will have golfers doing acrobatics to get it back into play.

Flanked by trees on both sides of the fairway with ancient tombs as backdrop and dancing peacocks on the course, the Delhi Golf Club is being admired by golf lovers around the world for its unique layout. DPWIC

The rough area along the fairway and the putting greens have their own distinct characteristics. While the former has grass growing thin and long making the ball sit deep, the undulations and grain on the green have motion and speed fluctuating at will.

"Generally, there isn't a lot of air movement in Delhi, and the trees create a microclimate by blocking air and sunlight," explained Ben Mclean, a New Zealand-born greenkeeper who worked at the DGC between 2020 and 2022.

"That's why you see a lot of leafy top growth rather than strong root development as the sunlight is poor. It leads to a grainy surface, and when you combine that with the tight fairways, it's quite unlike the courses usually seen on tour. But what a great challenge to have," said Mclean who is now based in Bengaluru as course superintendent at Prestige Golfshire.

Brutal? Sure, but that's what makes DGC unique and interesting and has caught the attention of golf lovers around the world. The scenic course with ancient tombs as the backdrop and the peacocks dancing around are a throwback to the old-world charm which leaves the modern-day golfers mesmarised.

At a time when contemporary golf has become all about bombing drivers on treeless fairways and fancy wedge play before nailing putts on true greens, DGC rewards toned down vintage golf with old-school values.

From accurately angled long iron/rescue/wood shots off the tee to flop shots as stock shot and relying on instinct more than data on the greens, the layout is all about reciprocating respect and displaying patience.

"It's beautiful, isn't it? For a greenkeeper or a golfer, the course makes you think every single second. There are very few courses in the world with such a thin margin for error. No wonder the top golfers and the golfing world are going gaga about DGC. It's a well-deserved appreciation," admired Mclean of his former workstation.

India clinch three medals at Asian Youth Games

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), PTI: Fourteen-year-olds Kanishka Bidhuri and Arvind on Monday secured a silver and a bronze respectively to take India's tally to three medals in the Kurash competition at the Asian Youth Games here.

Kanishka settled for a silver in the girls' 52kg category after losing 0-3 by chala to Uzbekistan's Karimova Mubinabonu in the final.

Earlier, she had stormed into the title clash with a 10-0 win by khalol over Jalaloddin Setayesh in the semifinals, following a quarterfinal victory by yonbosh against Thailand's Khundee Waratchaya at Exhibition World Bahrain.

In the boys' 83kg division, Arvind clinched a bronze after registering a 10-0 win by khalol over Davlatzoda in the quarterfinals before losing 0-10 to Uzbekistan's Golibov Shohjahon in the semis. There are no bronze medal playoffs in the Youth Games.

Khalol is a term used in kurash for a convincing win, yonbosh is a half-point for a less perfect throw, and chala denotes a minor advantage or point.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Delights for the year-end celebrations

The year-end party season begins with the Diwali festivities. These days, it's a fad to entertain guests at home, to some fancy food. And the season is just right to show off your culinary skills. Don't fret if you aren't an expert at the cooktop.

Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils presents Cuisines of Karnataka Season 4 with Indane as LPG Partner, TTK Prestige as Kitchen Partner, Bhima Jewellers as Special Partner and Lays as Snacks Partner. SBI Card, Vencobb Chicken and Eco Crystal Water Treatment are Associate Partners. In this initiative of Prajavani and Deccan Herald, chefs Aadharsh Tatpati, Sihi Kahi Chandru and Muralidhar demonstrate the making of some delectable dishes. You can watch the videos online (scan the QR code at the end).

What's on the menu

Aadharsh Tatpati:
- Kollegala Mutton Nalli Pulao
- Kanakpura-style Hole Meenu Saaru
- Raichur Tuntapur Koli Kaddi
- Batani Kurma
- Kadle Manoli Sukka Masala (Mangaluru style)

Sihi Kahi Chandru:
- Halasina Mulka
- Southekayi Muddipalya
- Hithkida Avarebele Melogra
- Hurgadle Nippattu
- Bonda Soup

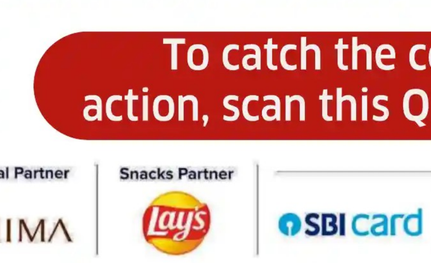
Muralidhar:
- Chikpete Kaal Soup
- Street Keema Vade
- Bachelor Quick Mutton Fry
- Mysuru White Chicken Pulao
- Naati Koli Bassaru

Try them at home

These videos are more than just demos. The chefs narrate tales behind each dish while demonstrating their preparation. You can impress your guests with these stories at the dining table! Easy to rustle up, they are just what you need during the year-end holiday season.
So go ahead, watch the videos, and get some action going in

Meet your chefs

Sihi Kahi Chandru



A Chandrashekar, popularly known as Sihi Kahi Chandru, is a theatre, television and film personality. He has produced over 40 theatre productions, over 50 TV serials and a host of documentaries, ad films and short films. Among his many talents is his culinary expertise. He delights in presenting delicacies in his signature style.

Aadharsh Tatpati

With over 18 years in the hospitality industry as an executive chef, he brings his rich experience to the cooktop. Aadharsh has worked in Germany, UK and Italy. He hosts many popular shows on TV displaying his culinary skills. He owns a food processing and manufacturing company.

Muralidhar

A popular television host in the Kannada entertainment industry, he rose to fame with his successful cooking show, Oggarane Dabbi. He runs a popular YouTube channel 'Suchi Kichi With Murali' along with his wife Suchitra. He rose to fame with a show dedicated to non-vegetarian dishes showcasing his culinary expertise.

To catch the cooking action, scan this QR code

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MARUTI SUZUKI

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